

MARVEL®

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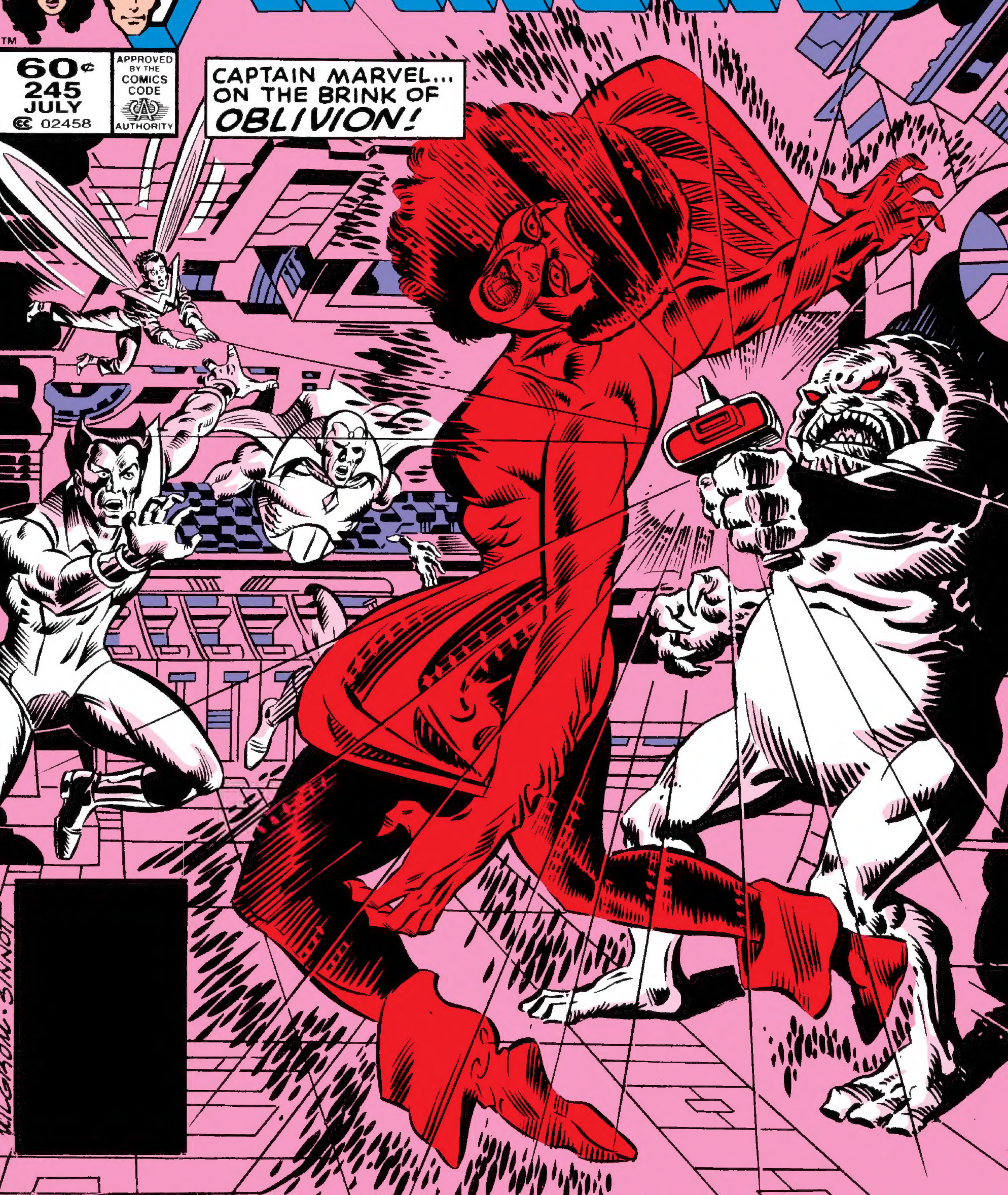


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CAPTAIN MARVEL...
ON THE BRINK OF
OBLIVION!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS



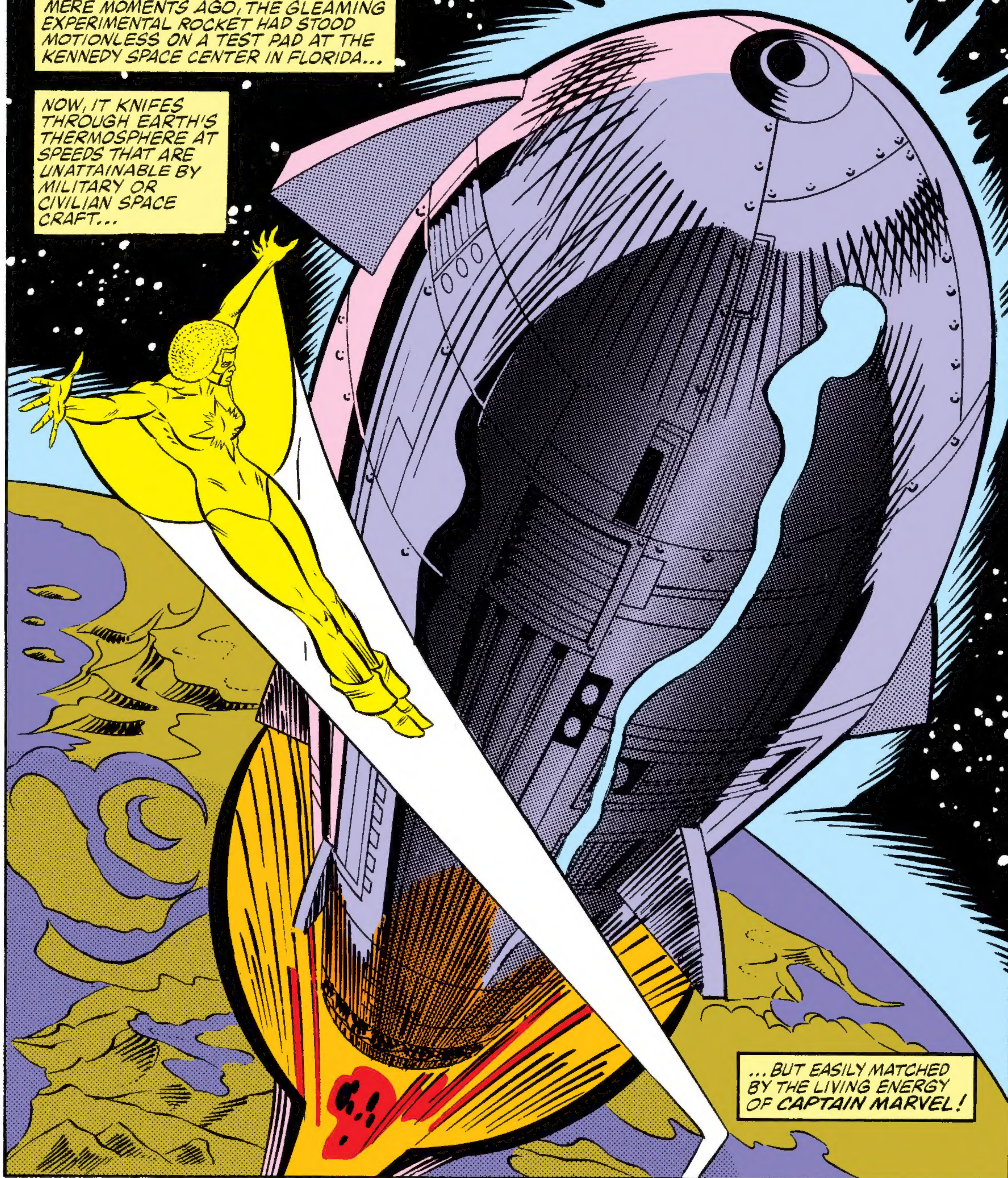
WILLIAMSON • SINN



BOMBSHELLS!

MERE MOMENTS AGO, THE GLEAMING EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET HAD STOOD MOTIONLESS ON A TEST PAD AT THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER IN FLORIDA...

NOW, IT KNIFES THROUGH EARTH'S THERMOSPHERE AT SPEEDS THAT ARE UNATTAINABLE BY MILITARY OR CIVILIAN SPACE CRAFT...



... BUT EASILY MATCHED BY THE LIVING ENERGY OF CAPTAIN MARVEL!

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AL MILGROM
PENCILER

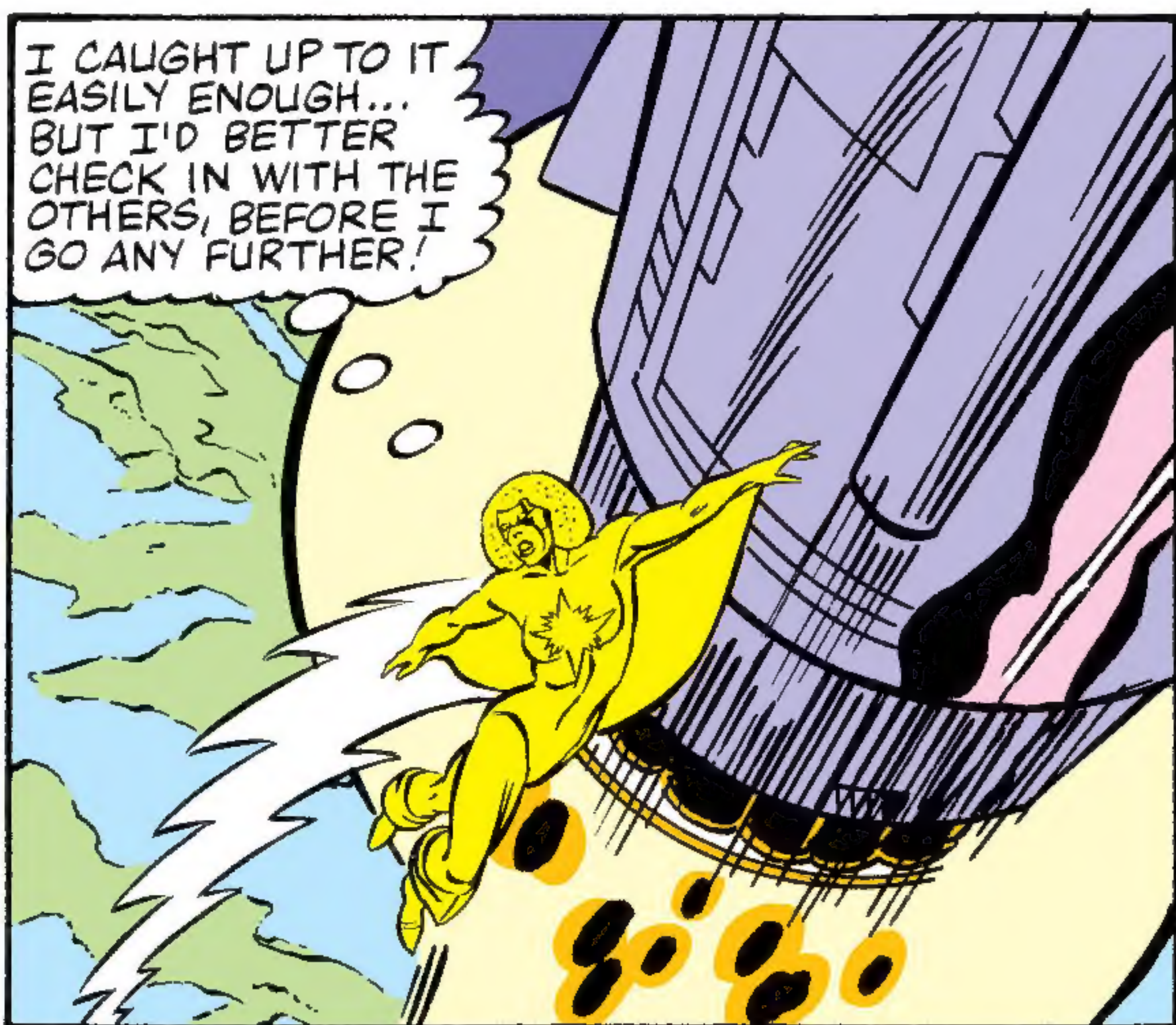
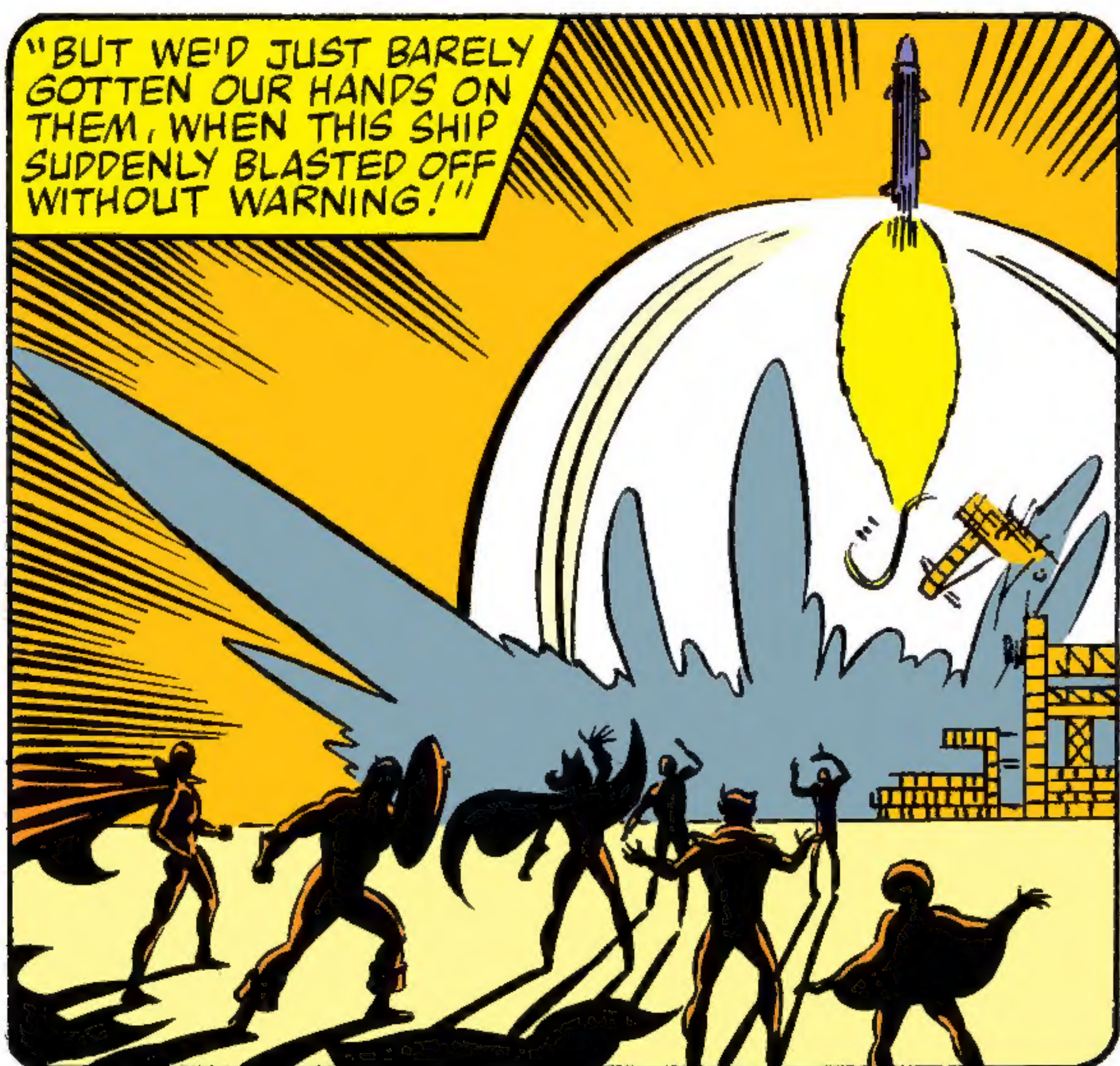
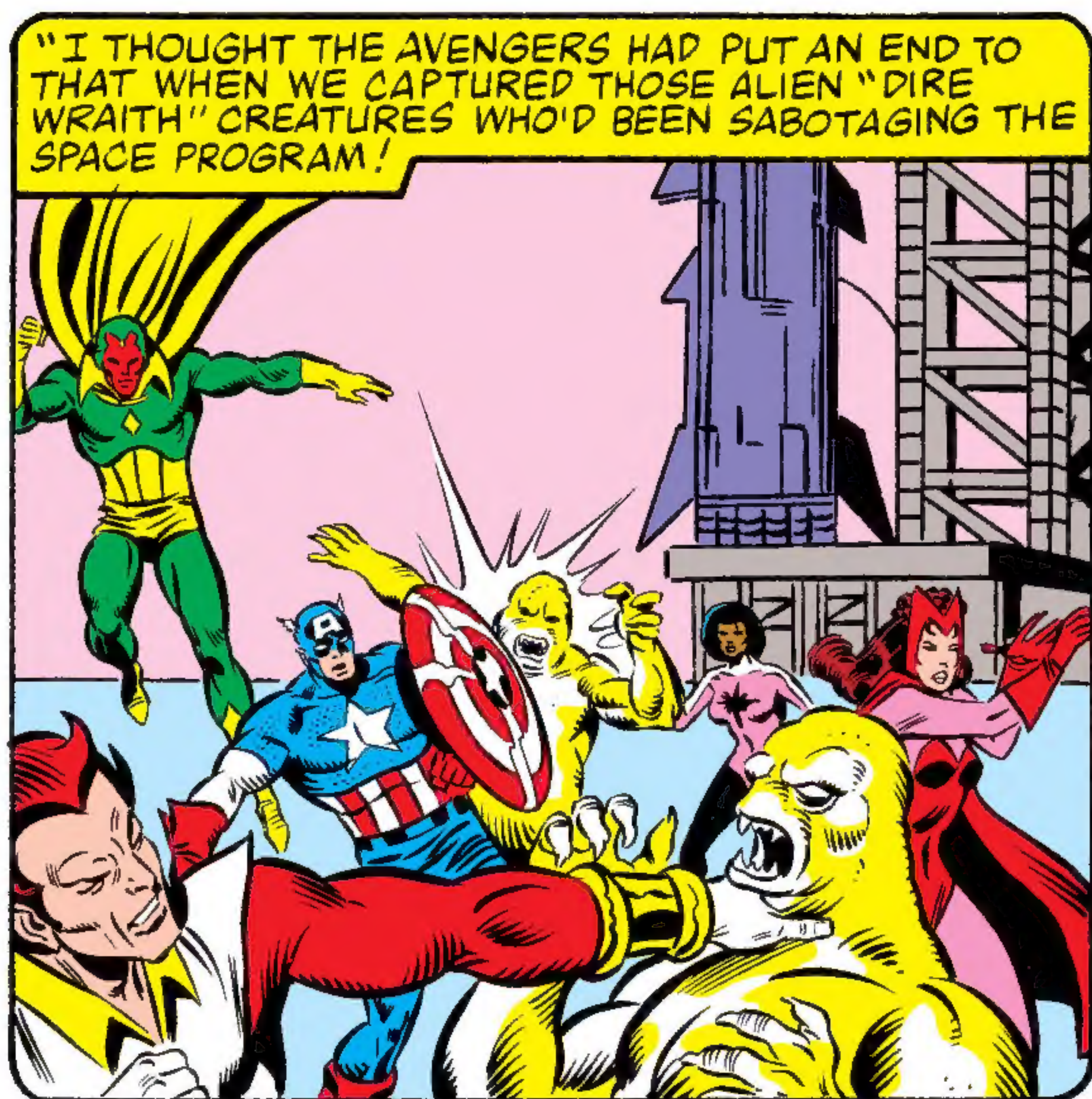
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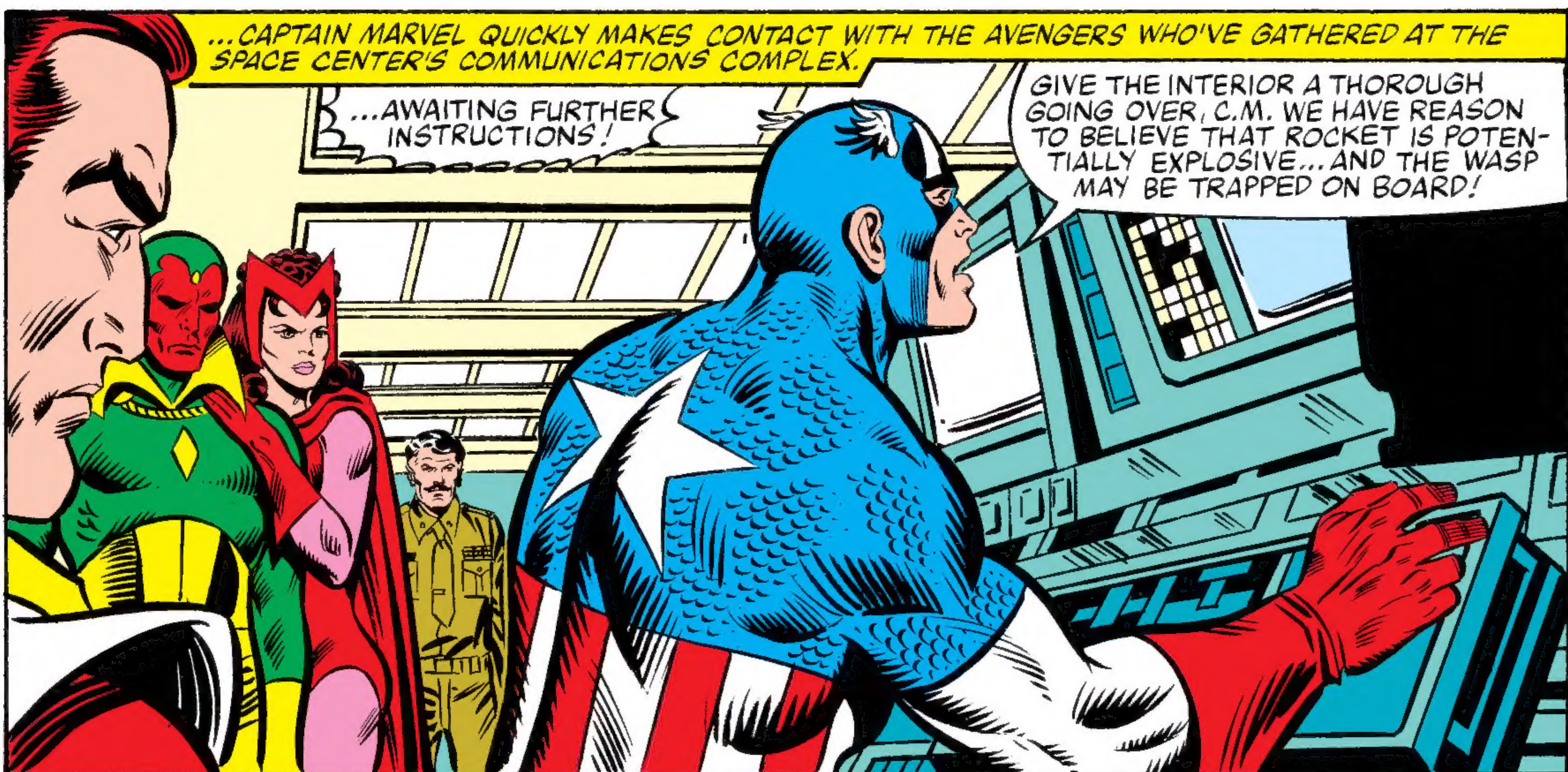
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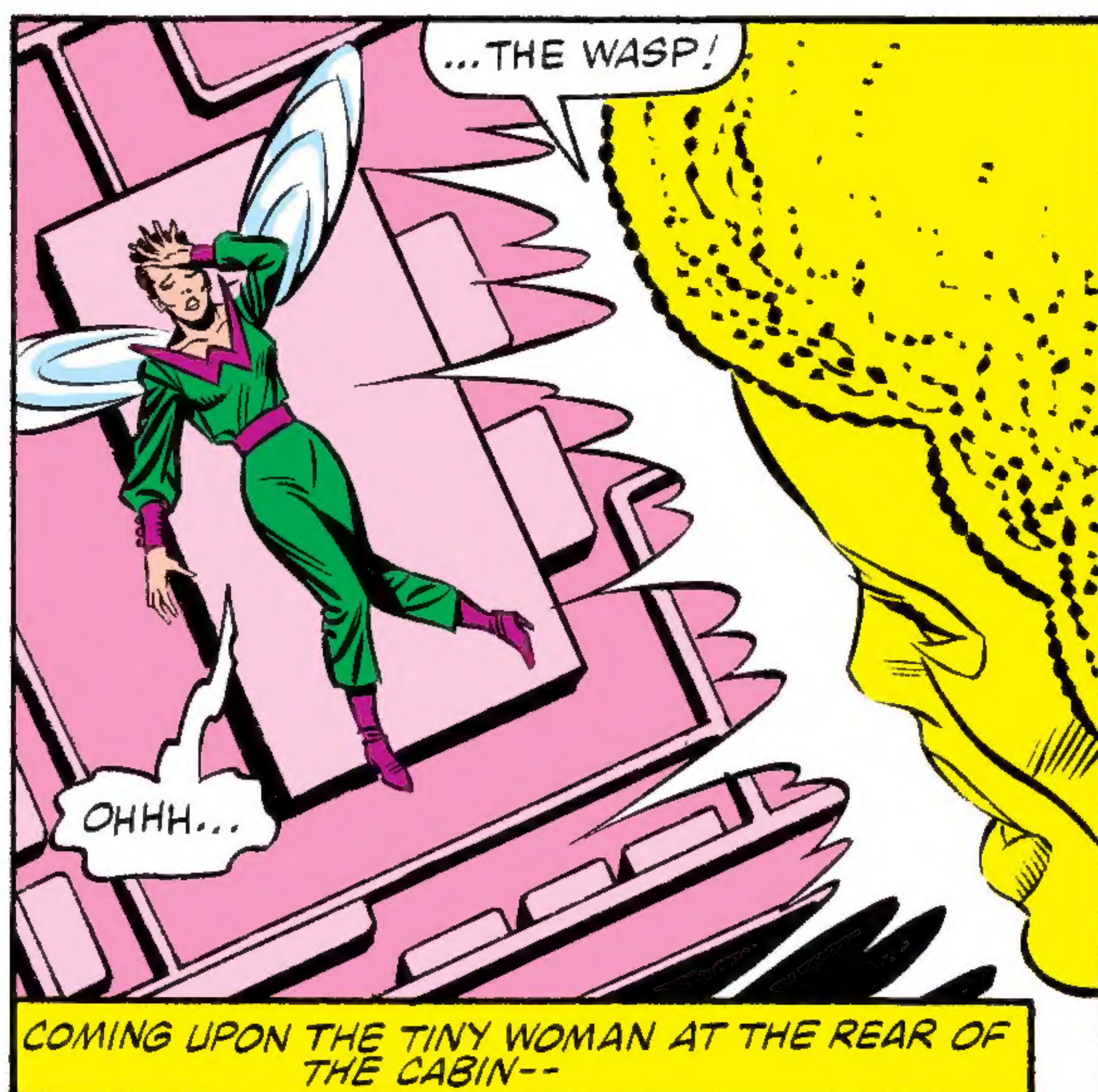
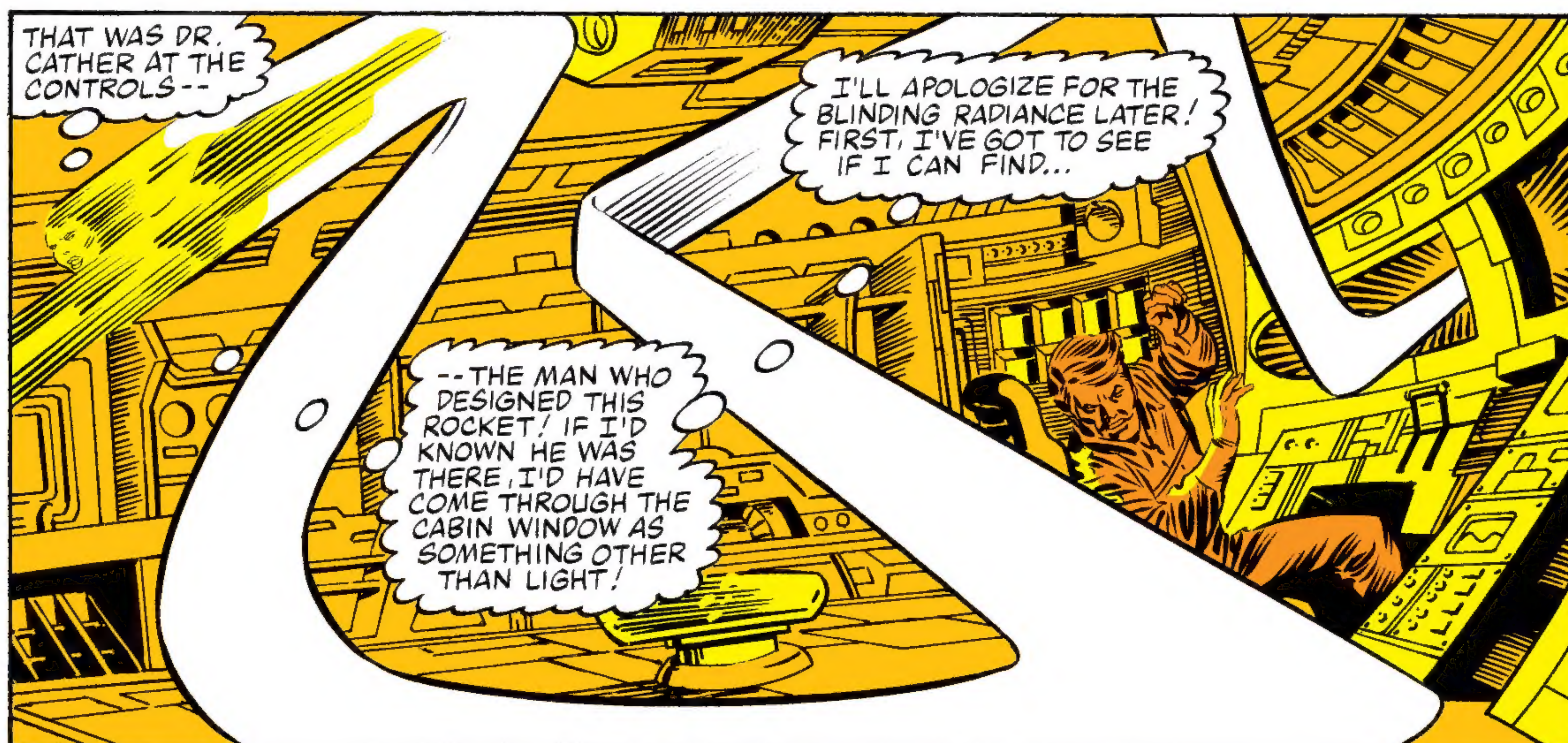
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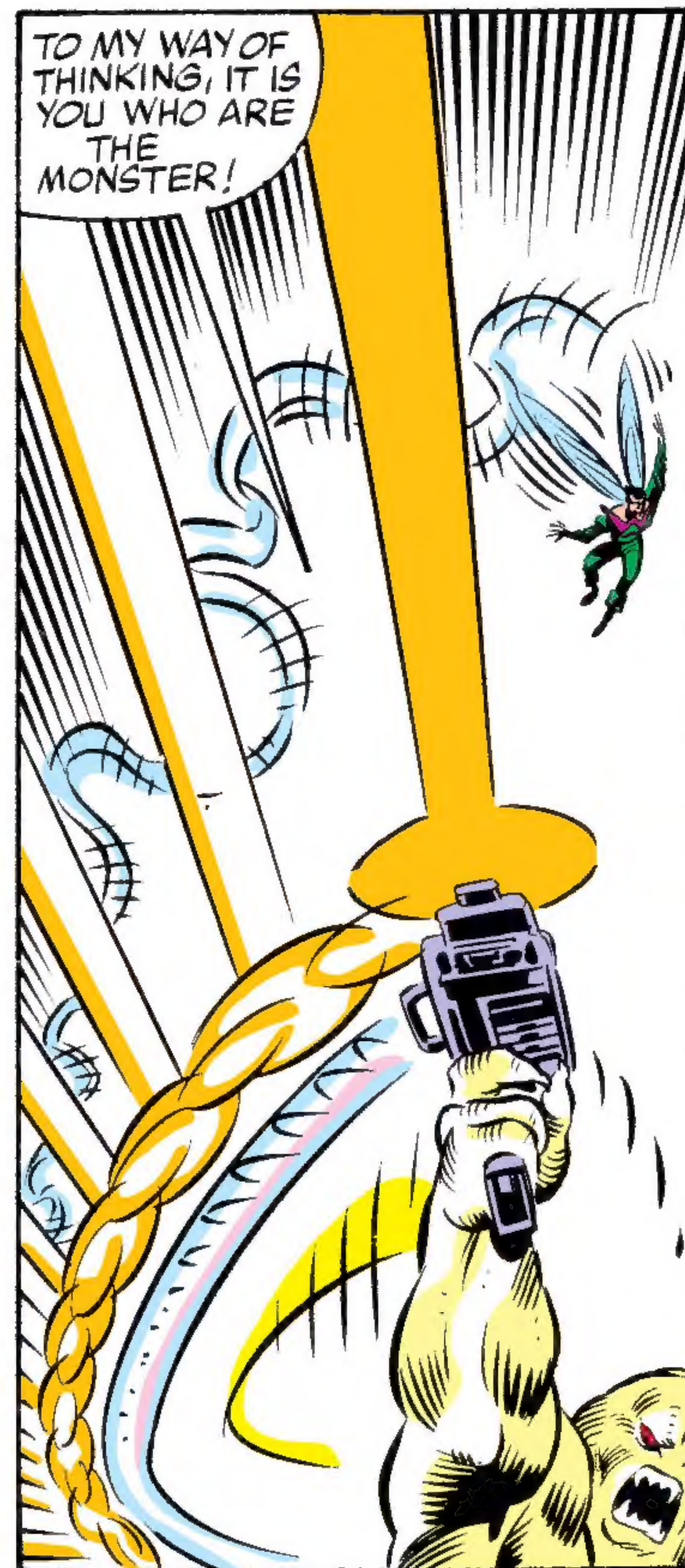
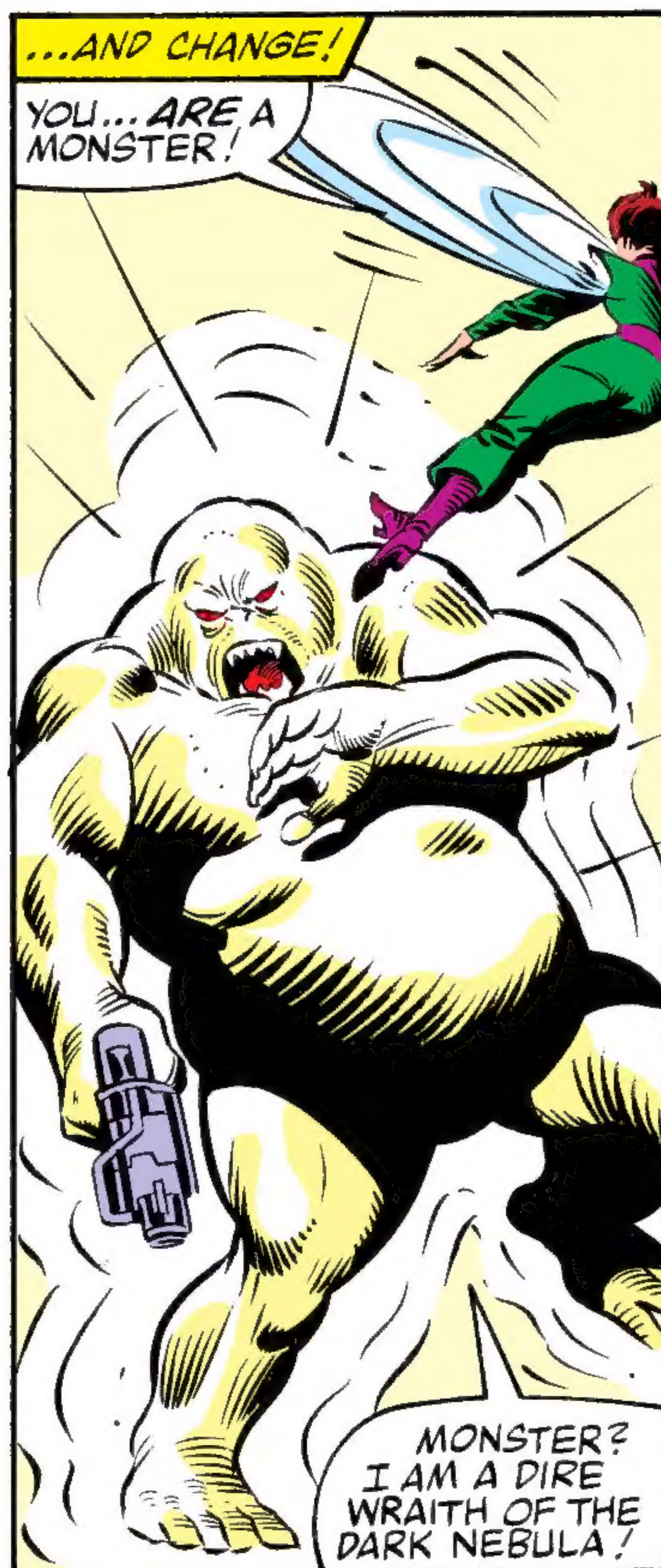
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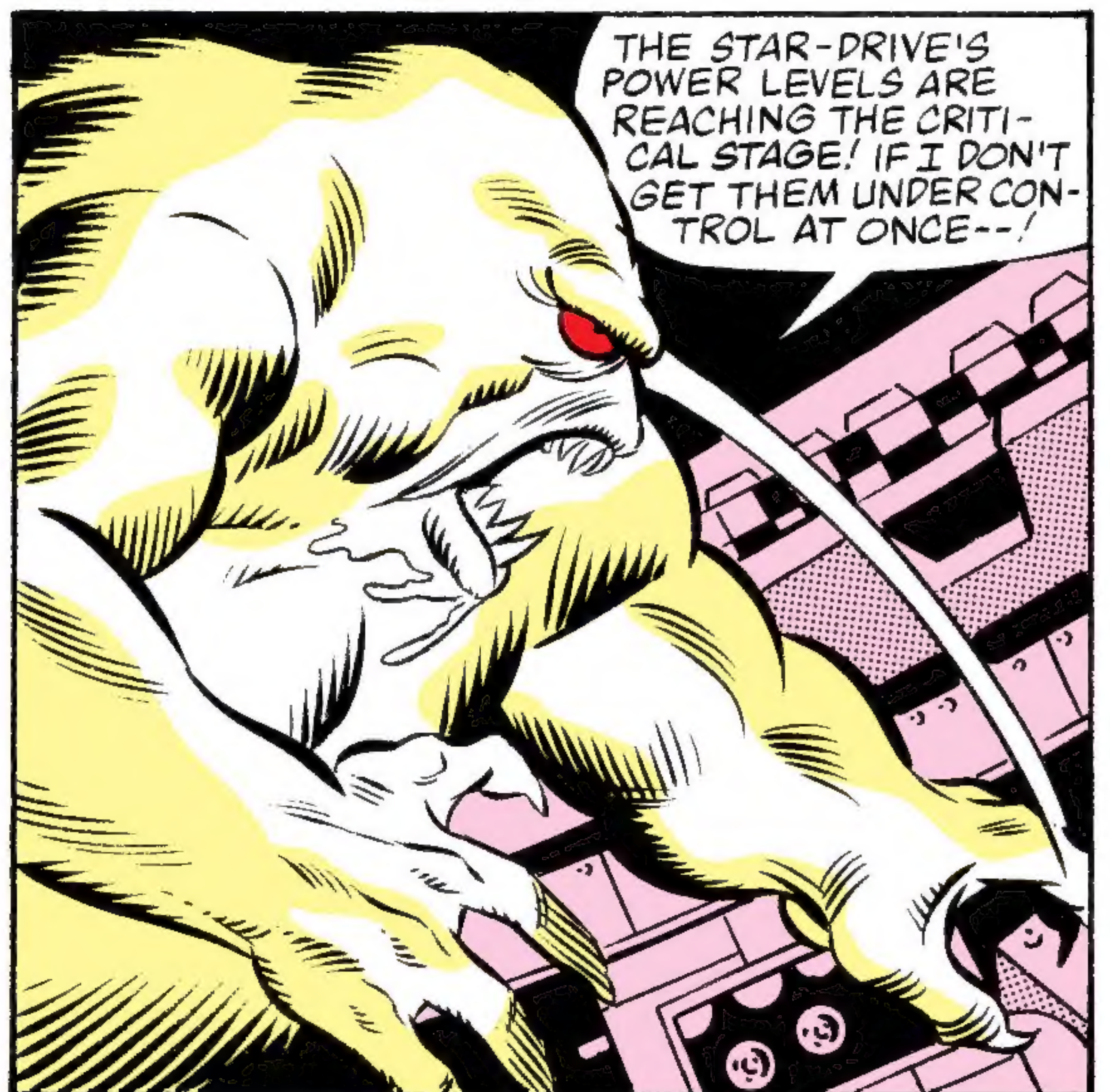
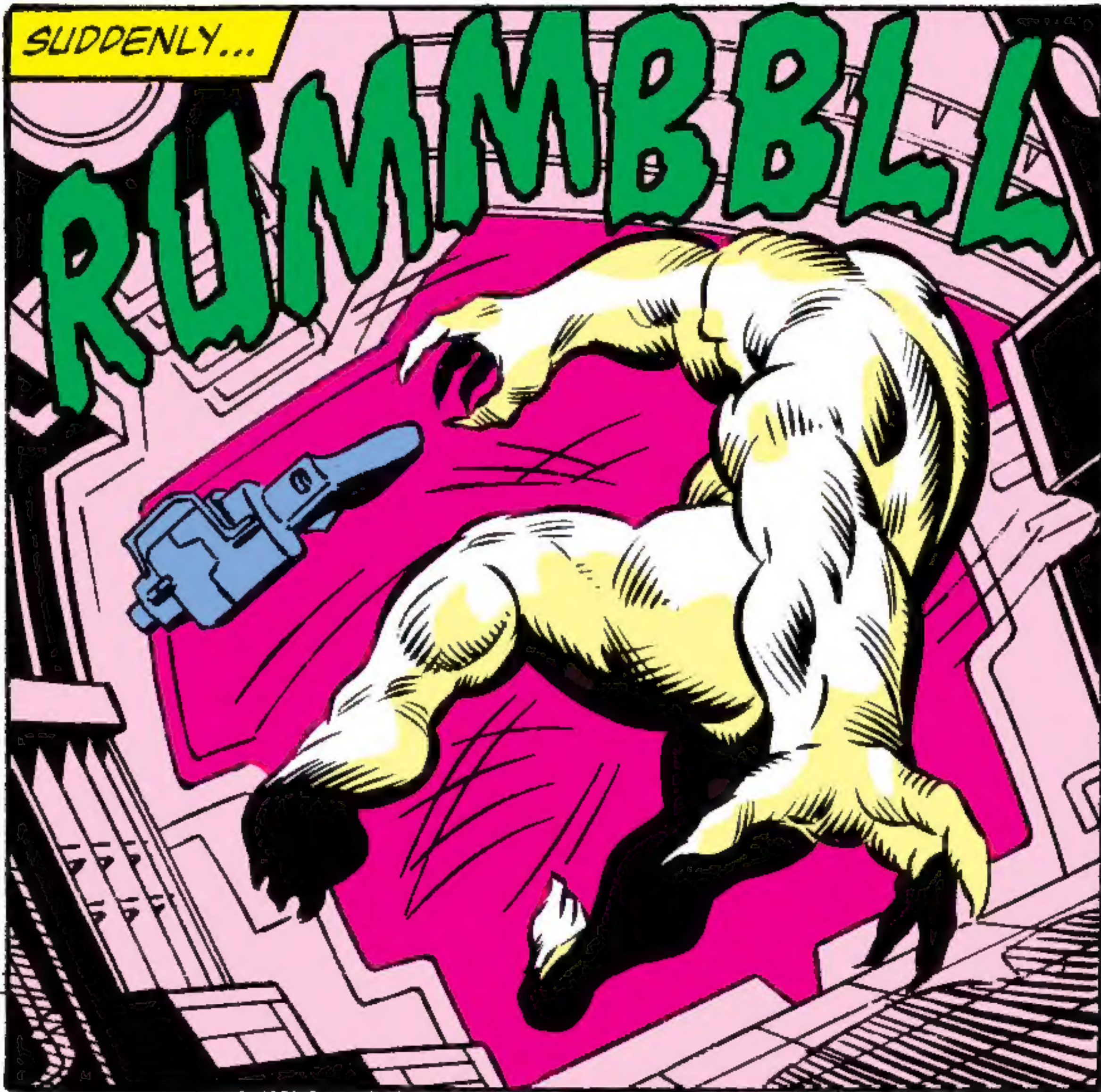


RELEASING A SMALL BIT OF HER AMAZING ENERGY IN THE FORM OF RADIO WAVES...

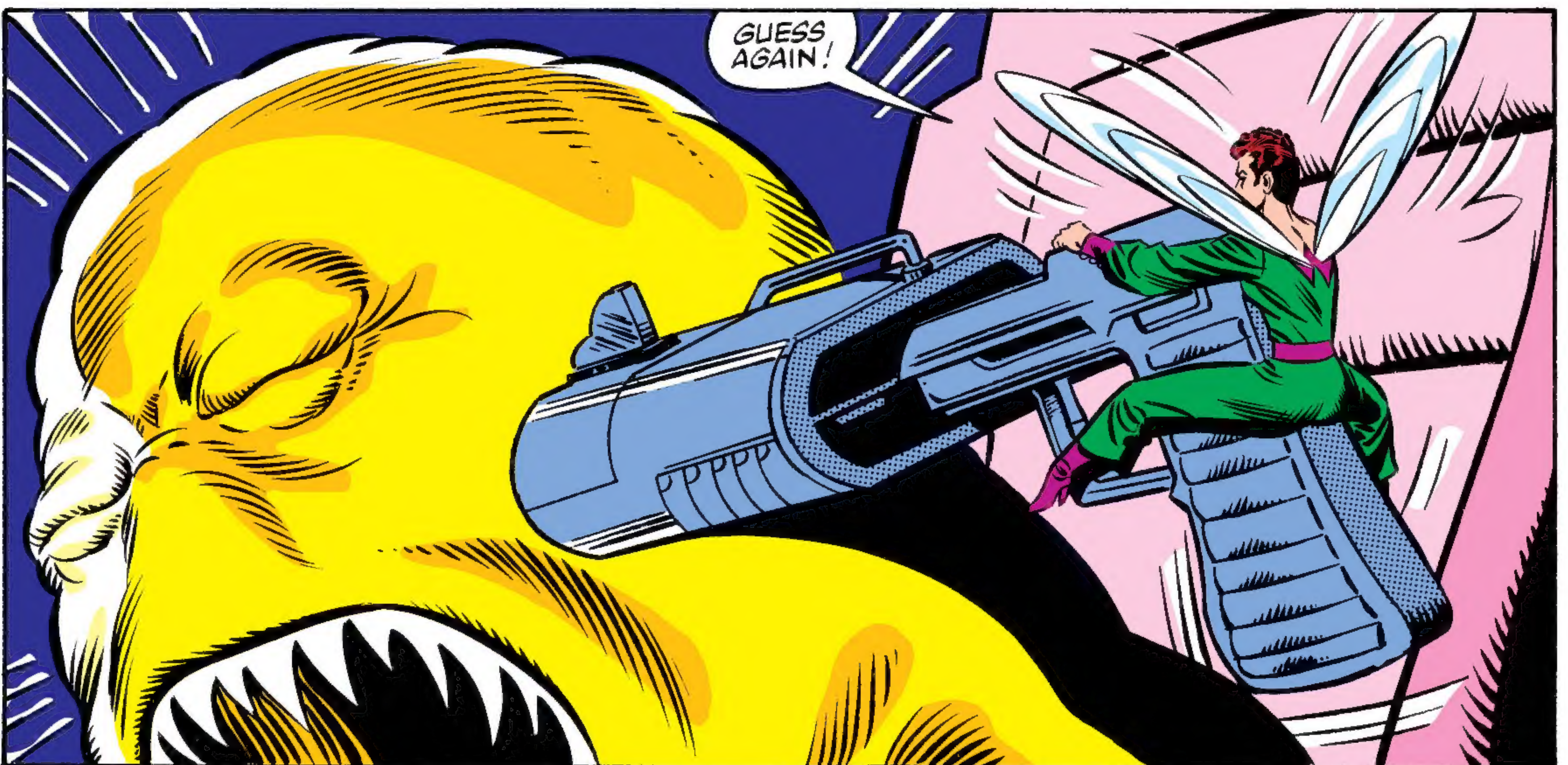
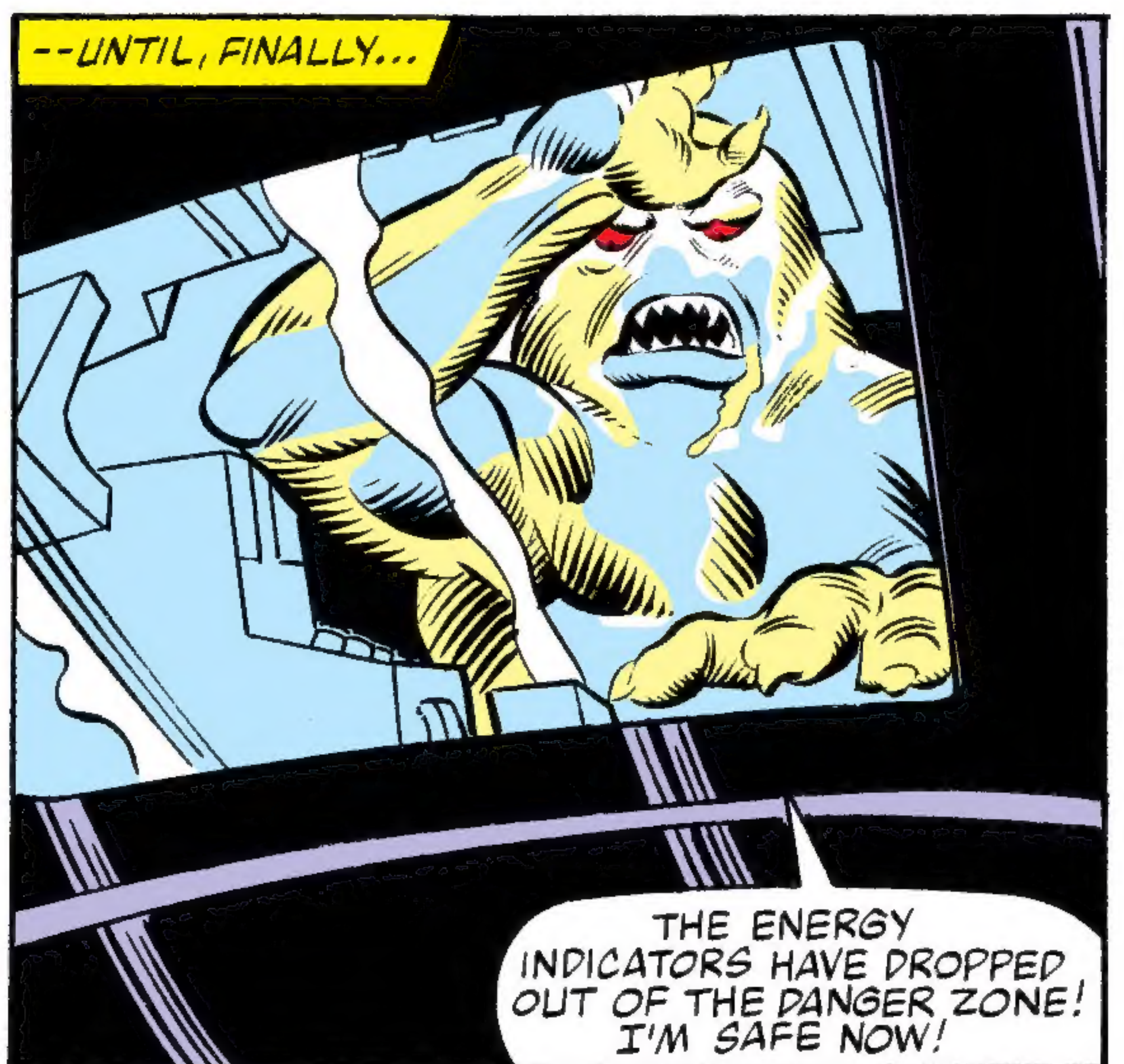


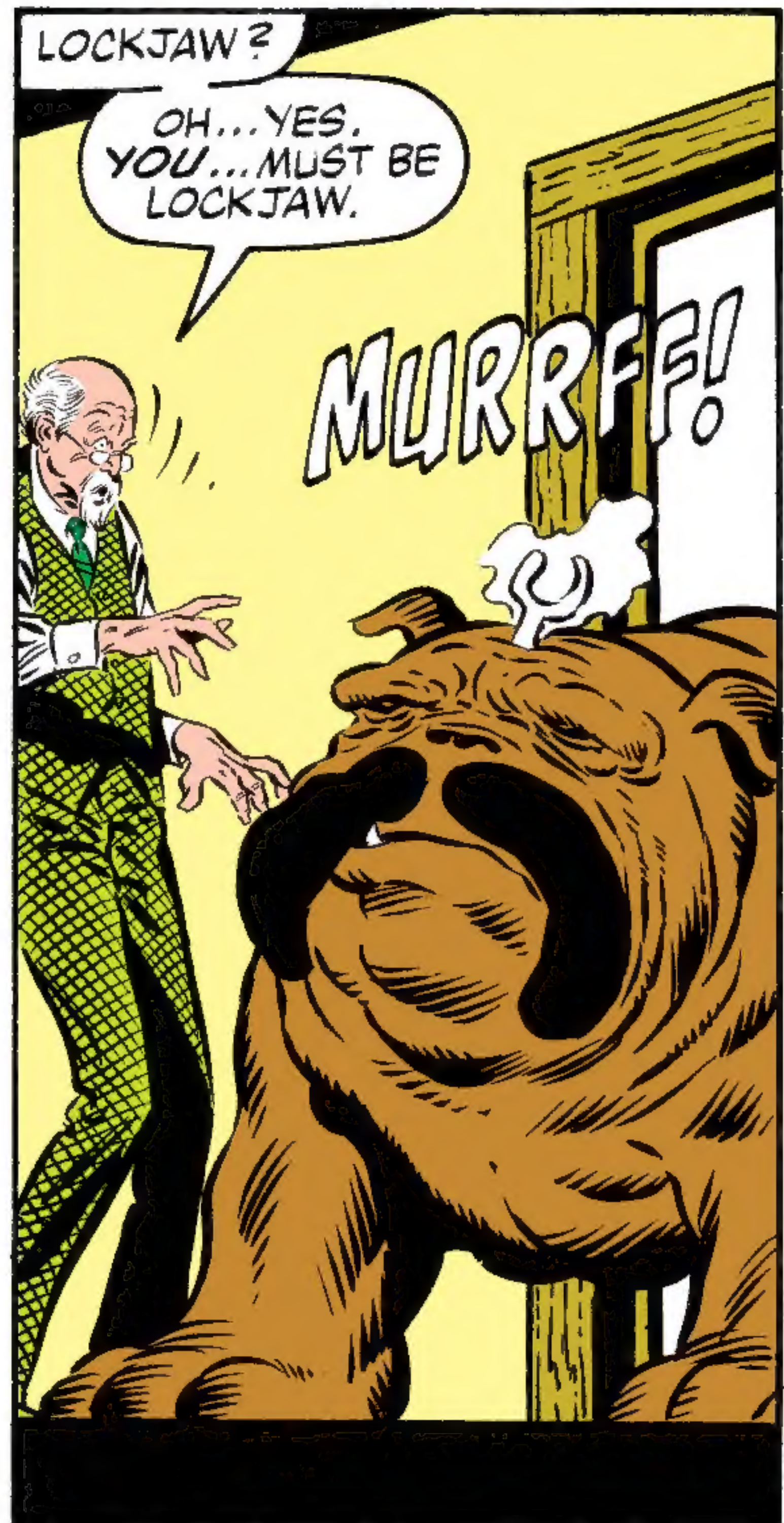
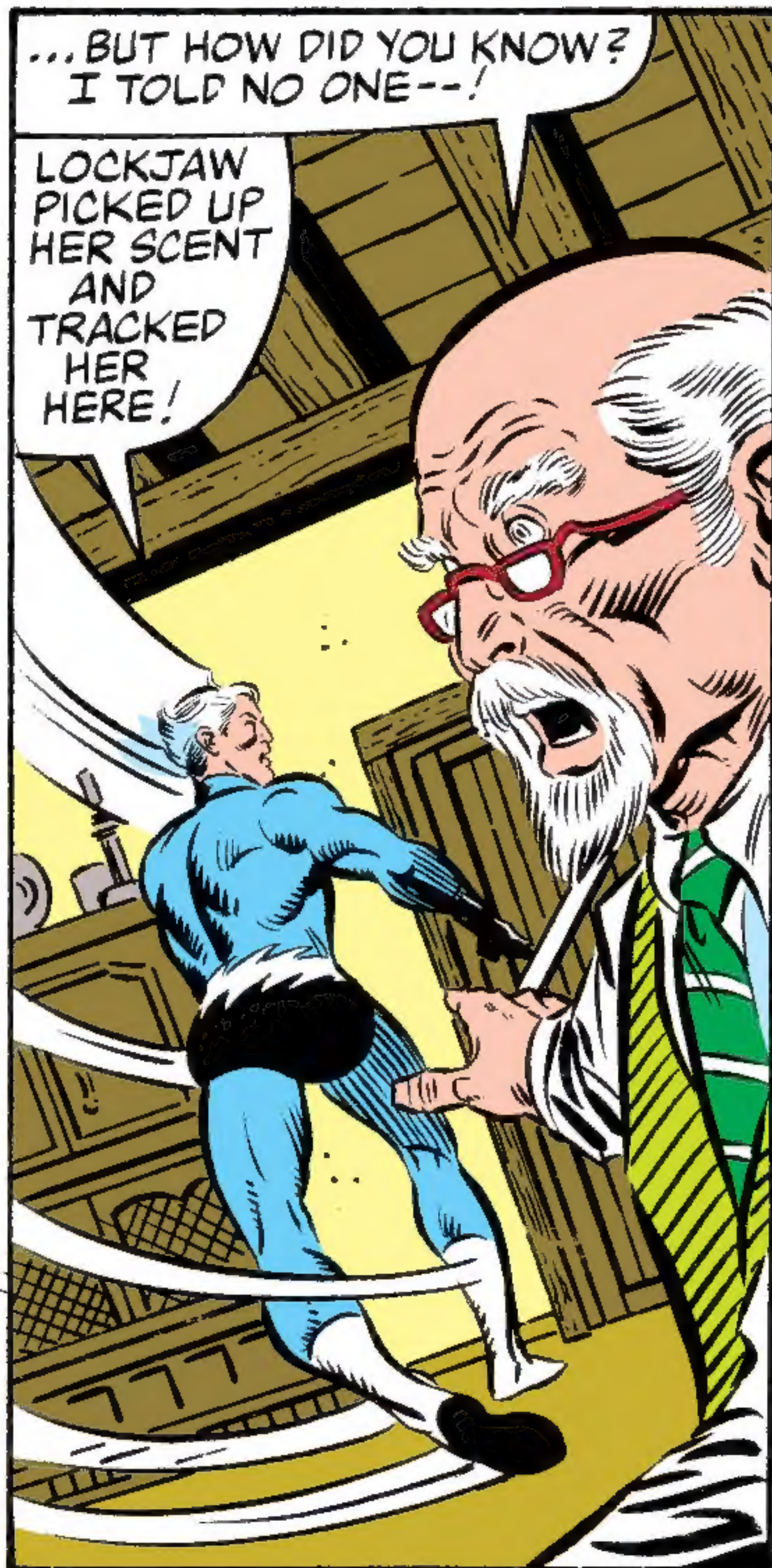
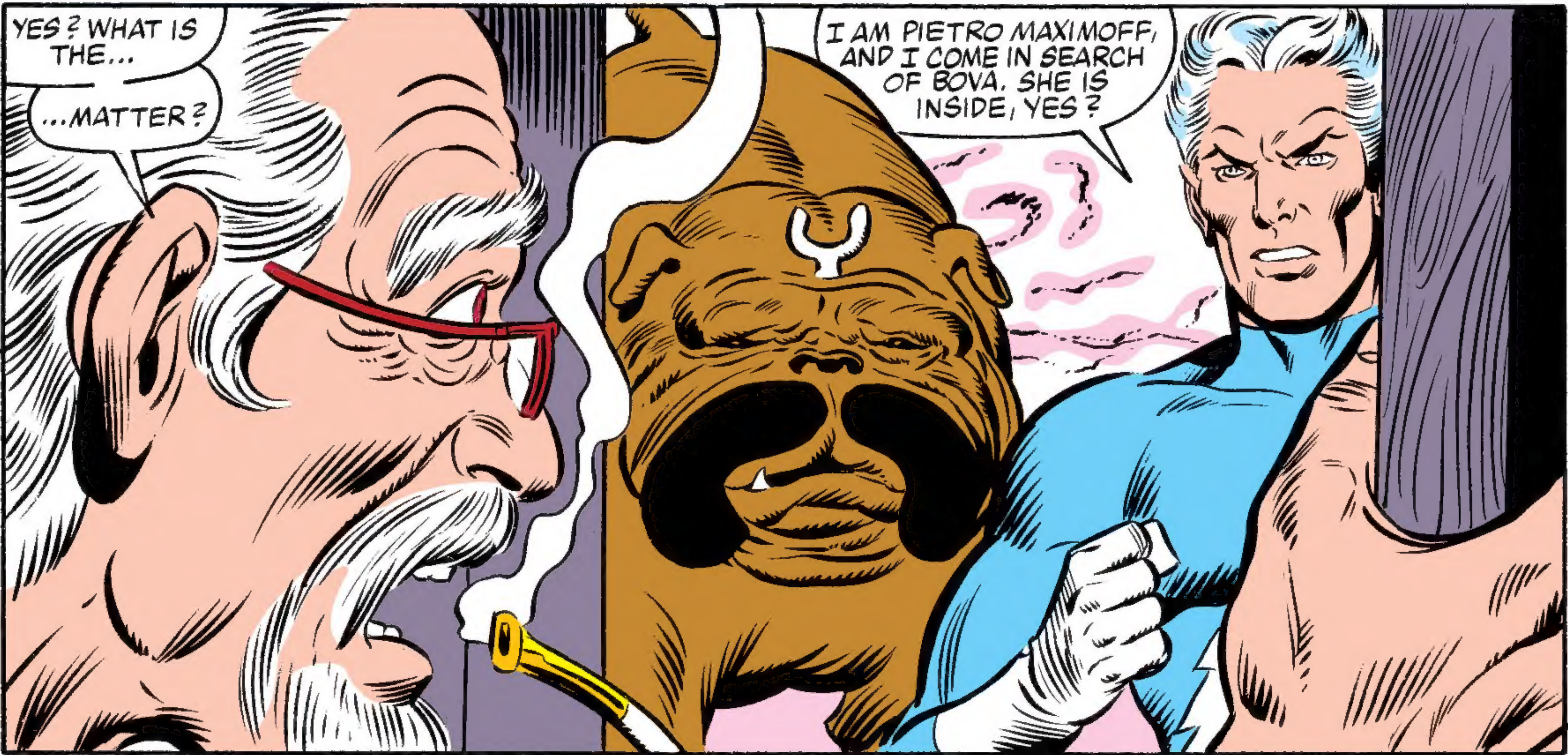
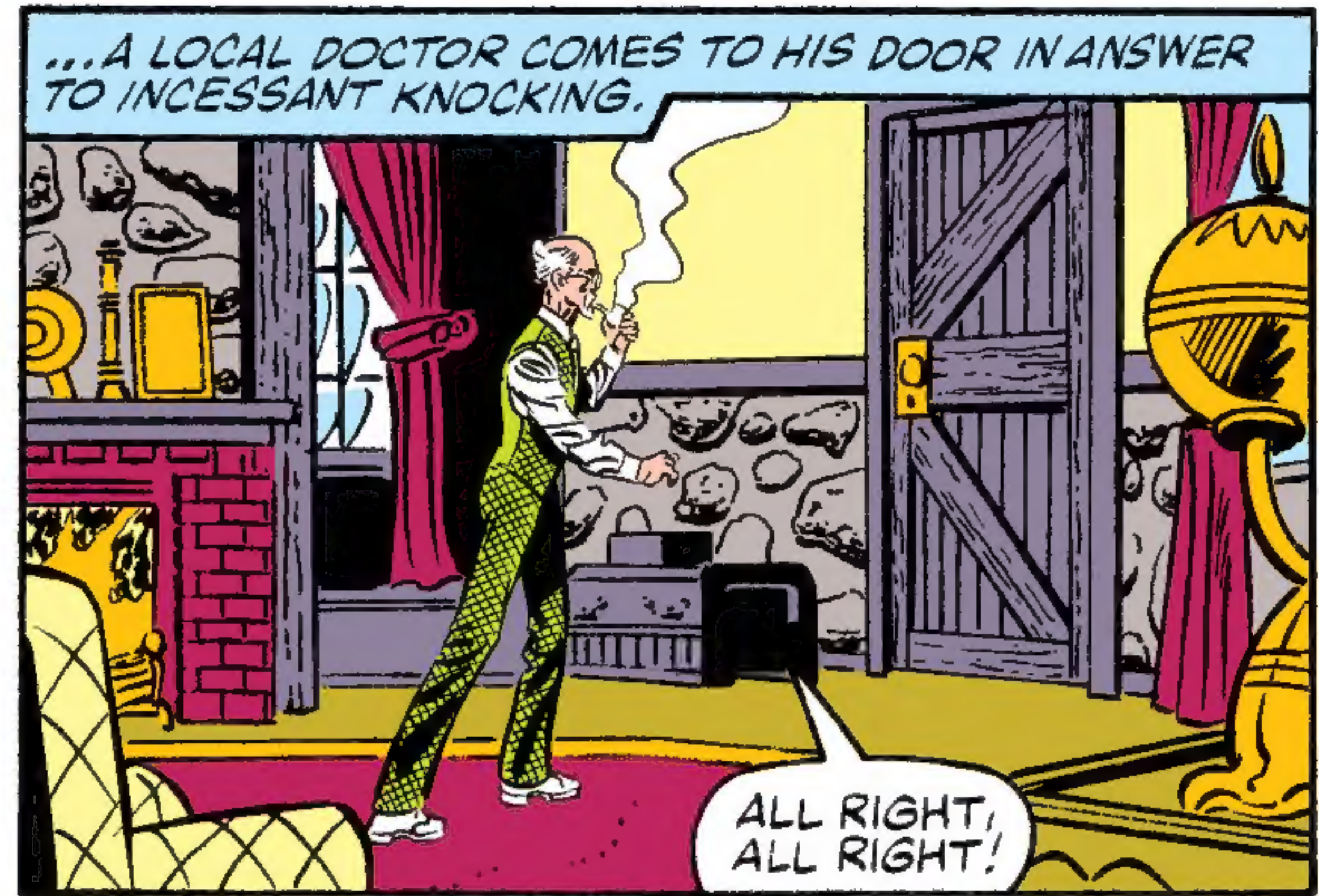
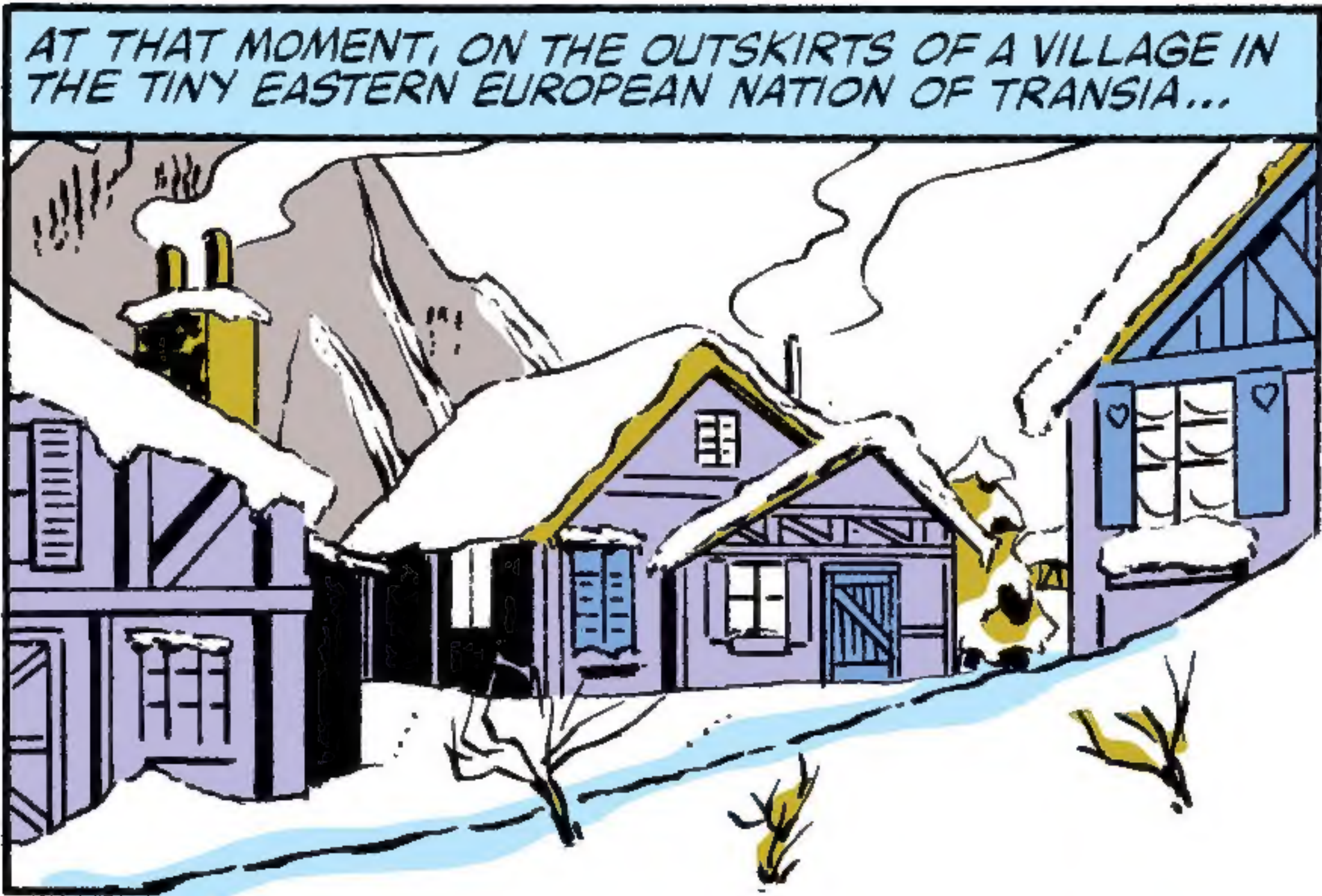






FOR SEVERAL FEVERISH MINUTES, THE GROTESQUE FIGURE NURSES THE CONTROLS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL CRAFT--





AT THE DOOR TO THE BACK ROOM, PIETRO PAUSES... ENTERING WITH UNCOMMON SLOWNESS FOR ONE WHO IS THE MUTANT KNOWN AS QUICKSILVER!

QUIETLY, REVERENTLY, HE APPROACHES THE BIZARRE FIGURE THAT LIES ABED.

ONCE SHE HAD BEEN A SIMPLE COW OF THE FIELDS... UNTIL A MASTER SCIENTIST TURNED HER INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN HUMAN. YEARS AGO, AS MIDWIFE, SHE HELPED BRING PIETRO INTO THE WORLD.

BOVA--?

PIETRO?
THANK THE
CREATOR, YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT!

WHAT OF
YOUR SISTER
...WANDA?

SHE IS ALSO WELL.

I FOUND THE RUINS
OF YOUR CABIN IN THE
HILLS... YOU'VE BEEN HURT.
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

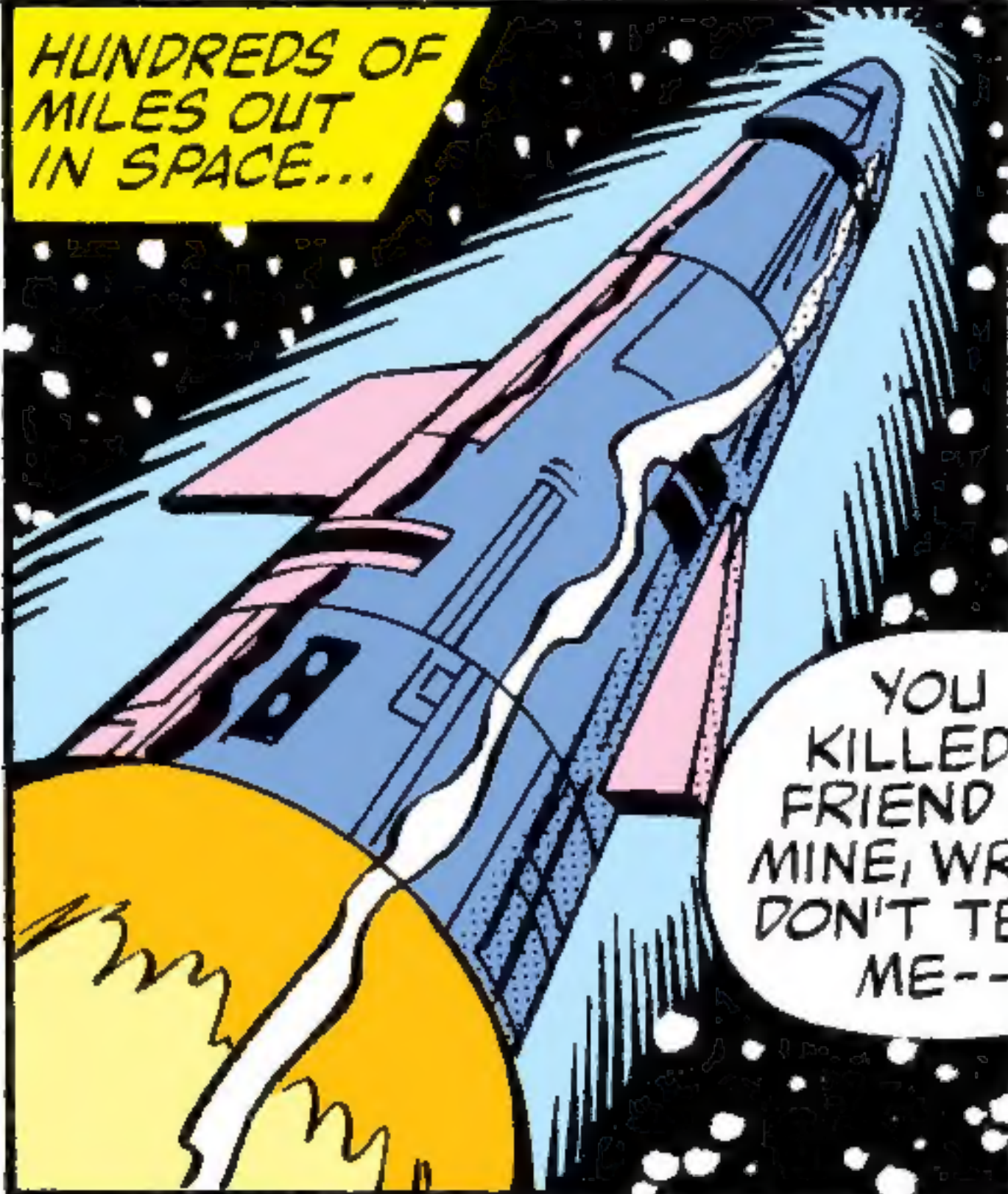
I KNEW NOT HIS
NAME AT THE TIME,
BUT I HAVE LEARNED
IT SINCE...

HE IS CALLED
MAGNETO.

MAGNETO.

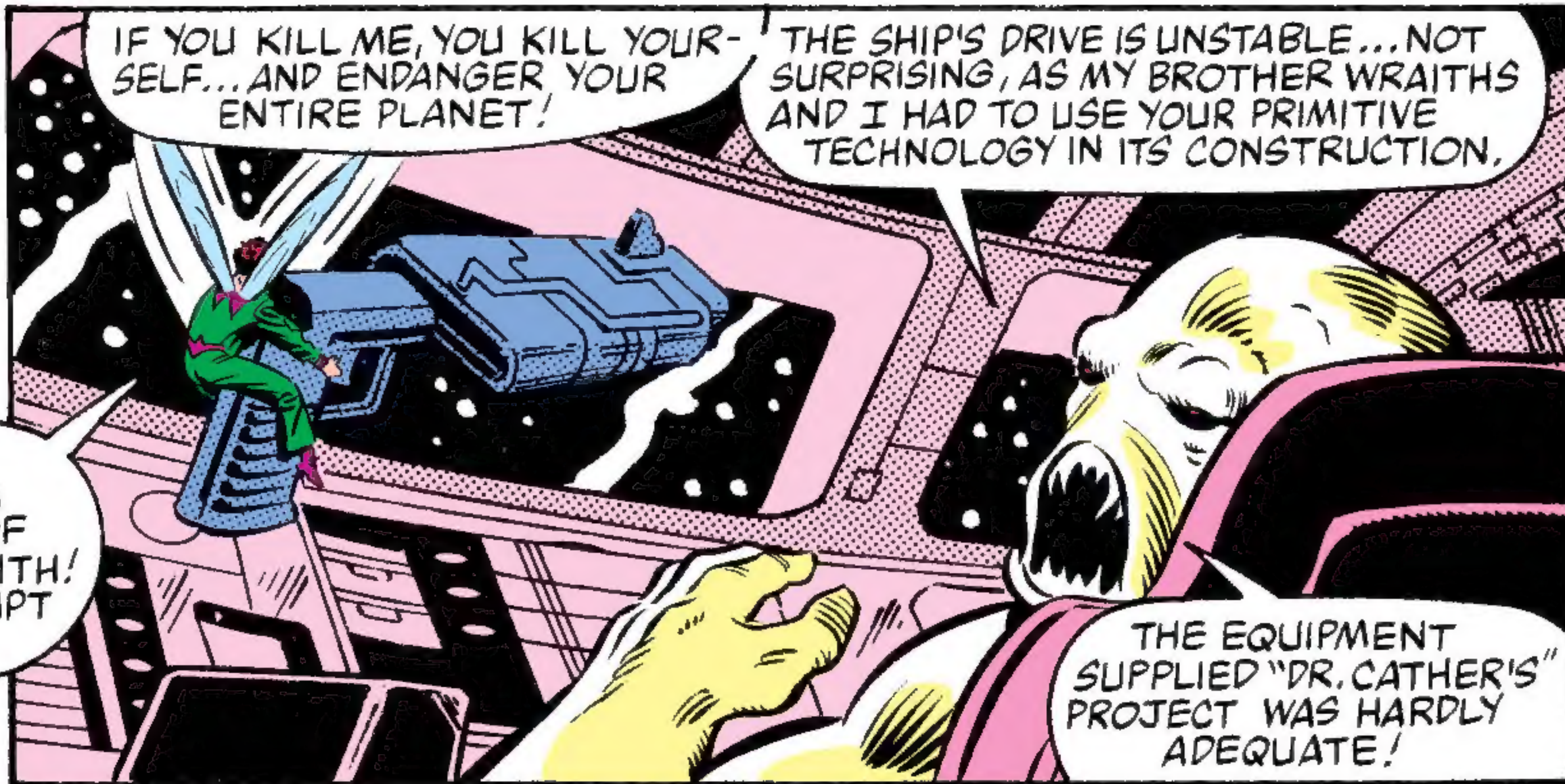
MY
FATHER.

HE
SHALL PAY
FOR THIS!



HUNDREDS OF MILES OUT IN SPACE...

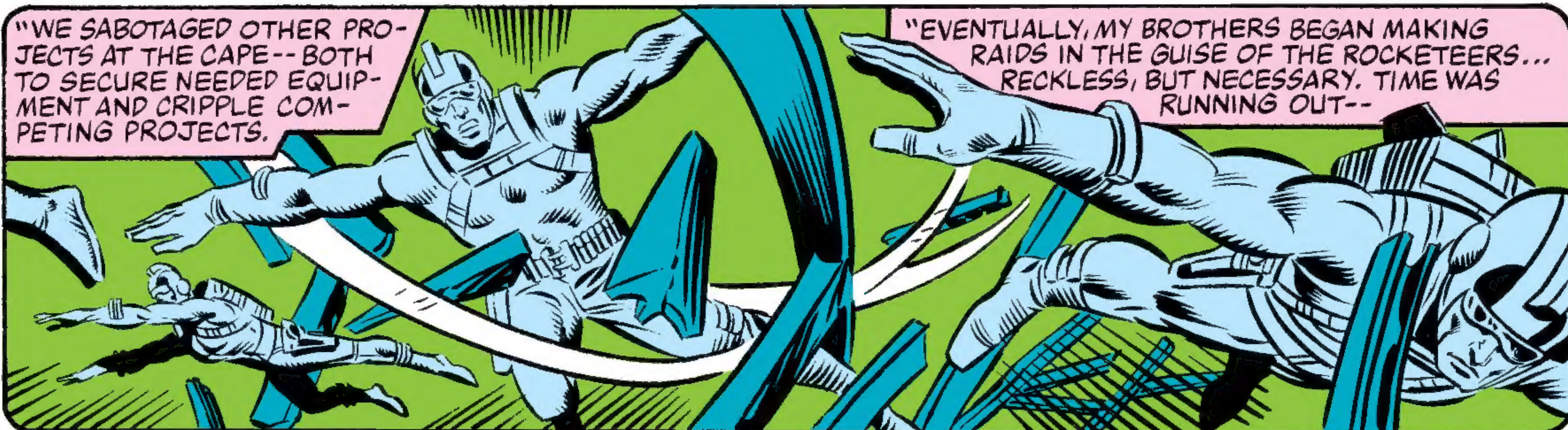
YOU KILLED A FRIEND OF MINE, WRAITH! DON'T TEMPT ME--!



IF YOU KILL ME, YOU KILL YOURSELF... AND ENDANGER YOUR ENTIRE PLANET!

THE SHIP'S DRIVE IS UNSTABLE... NOT SURPRISING, AS MY BROTHER WRAITHS AND I HAD TO USE YOUR PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY IN ITS CONSTRUCTION.

THE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED "DR. CATHER'S" PROJECT WAS HARDLY ADEQUATE!

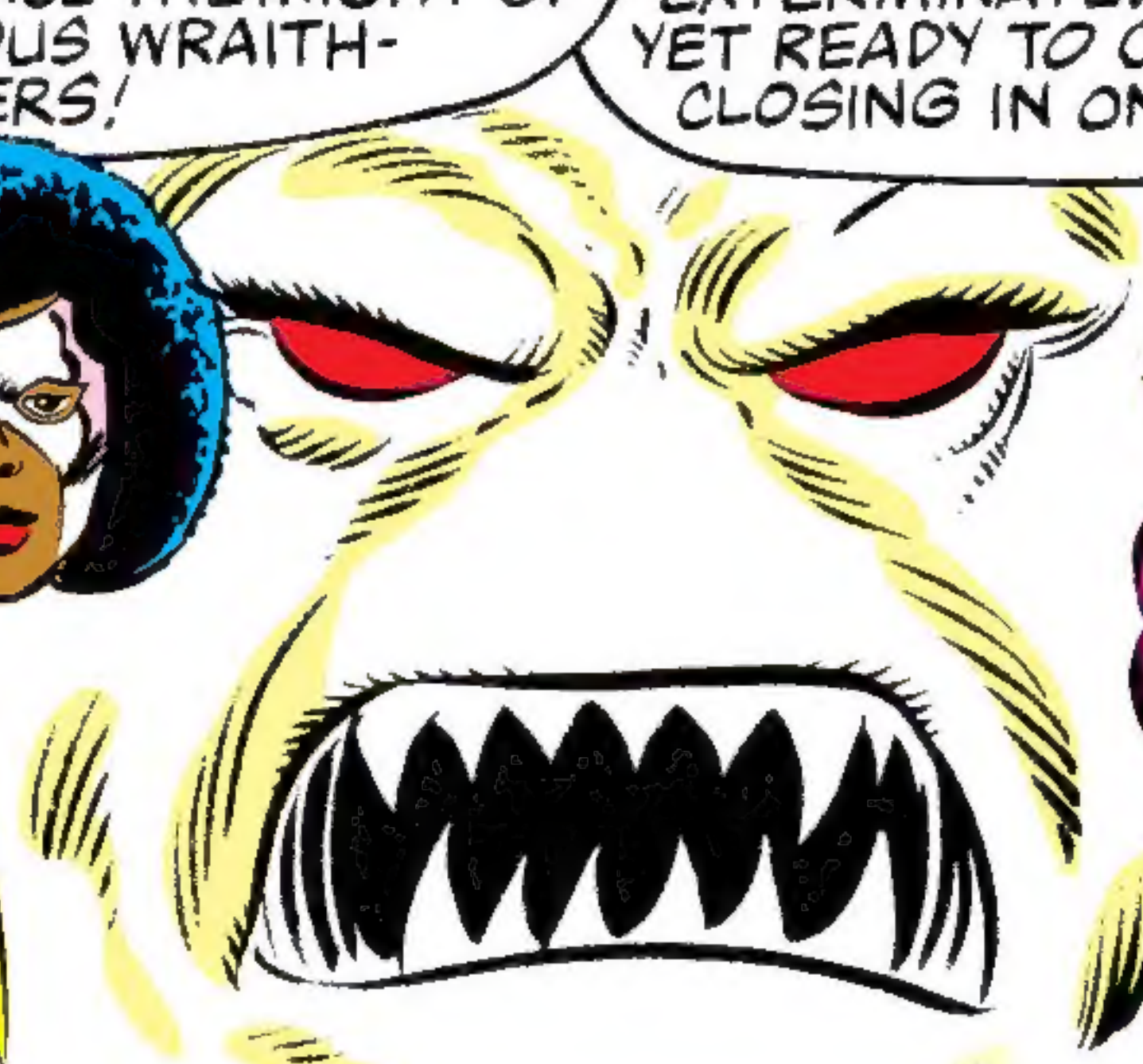


"WE SABOTAGED OTHER PROJECTS AT THE CAPE-- BOTH TO SECURE NEEDED EQUIPMENT AND CRIPPLE COMPETING PROJECTS.

"EVENTUALLY, MY BROTHERS BEGAN MAKING RAIDS IN THE GUISE OF THE ROCKETEERS... RECKLESS, BUT NECESSARY. TIME WAS RUNNING OUT--

--AND BETTER TO DEAL WITH TERRESTRIAL POWERS SUCH AS YOU AVENGERS, THAN FACE THE MIGHT OF OUR SORCEROUS WRAITH-SISTERS!

THEY TOOK OVER OUR INVASION OF EARTH, AND NEARLY EXTERMINATED MY KIND! * BUT OUR ESCAPE SHIP WAS NOT YET READY TO CARRY US ALL, AND THE SISTERS WERE CLOSING IN ON US!

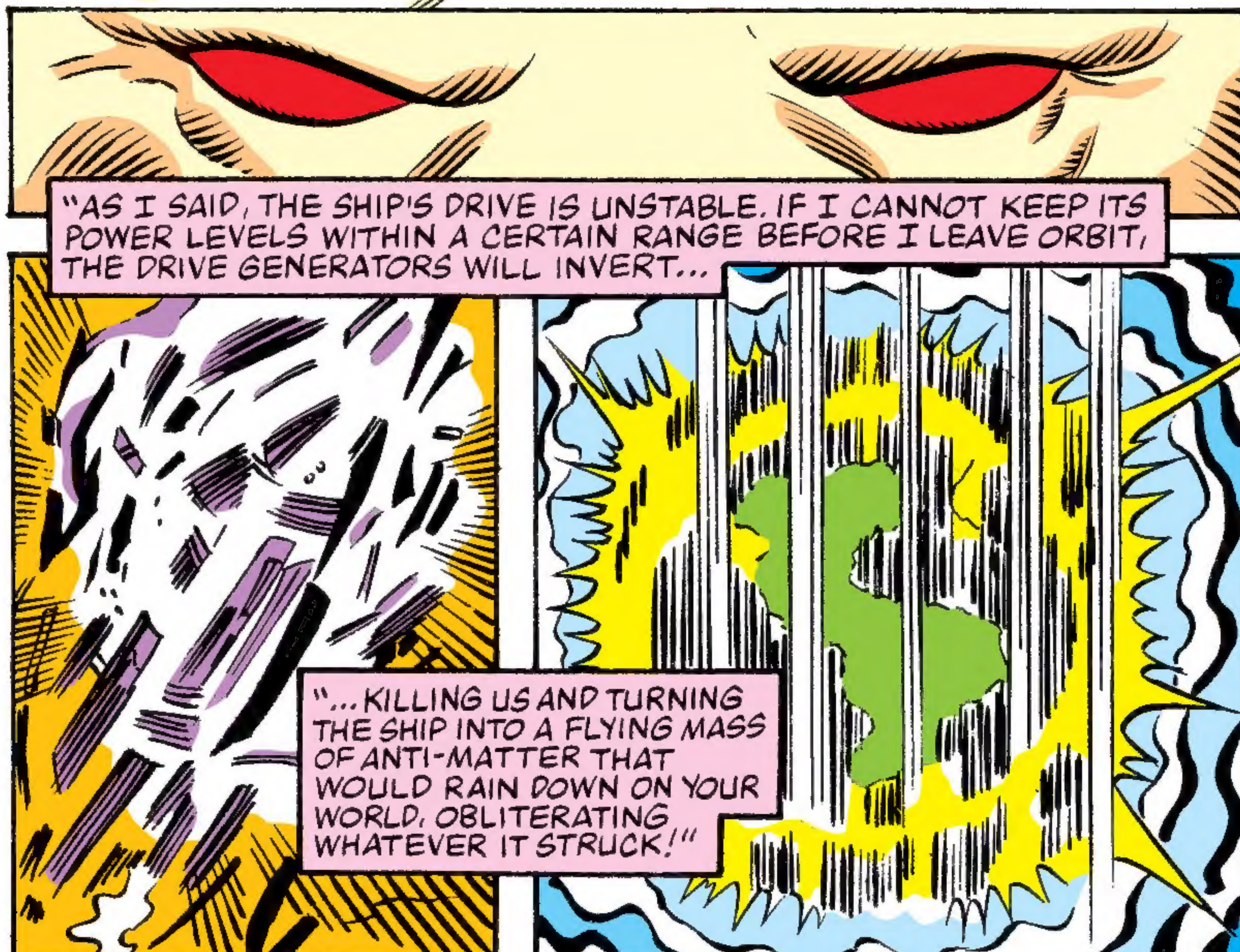


*SEE ROM #48!



SO I DECEIVED MY BROTHERS. THEY BECAME A DIVERSION FOR MY OWN ESCAPE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ABOUT ENDANGERING THE PLANET?



"AS I SAID, THE SHIP'S DRIVE IS UNSTABLE. IF I CANNOT KEEP ITS POWER LEVELS WITHIN A CERTAIN RANGE BEFORE I LEAVE ORBIT, THE DRIVE GENERATORS WILL INVERT...

"...KILLING US AND TURNING THE SHIP INTO A FLYING MASS OF ANTI-MATTER THAT WOULD RAIN DOWN ON YOUR WORLD, OBLITERATING WHATEVER IT STRUCK!"

SO, YOU DARE NOT FIRE!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU LEAVE ORBIT, EITHER! YOU HAVE TOO MUCH TO ANSWER FOR!

YOU CANNOT FORCE ME TO RETURN US TO EARTH! THERE I COULD ONLY FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE WRAITH-SISTERS! I WOULD RATHER DIE HERE THAN FACE THEM!

AS THE WRAITH ARGUES WITH THE WASP, NEITHER OF THEM ARE AWARE OF THE INVISIBLE ENERGY FORM WHICH SLIPS INTO THE CABIN THROUGH THE VERY SUBSTANCE OF THE DECK!

CAPTAIN MARVEL LIVES!

WHEN CAPTAIN AMERICA SAID THE SHIP WAS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE, I NEVER DREAMED IT COULD BE *THAT* EXPLOSIVE!

AND BY THE STATE OF WRAITH SCIENCE, I KNOW HE'S NOT KIDDING! HIS RAY GUN WOULD HAVE DISINTEGRATED ME...

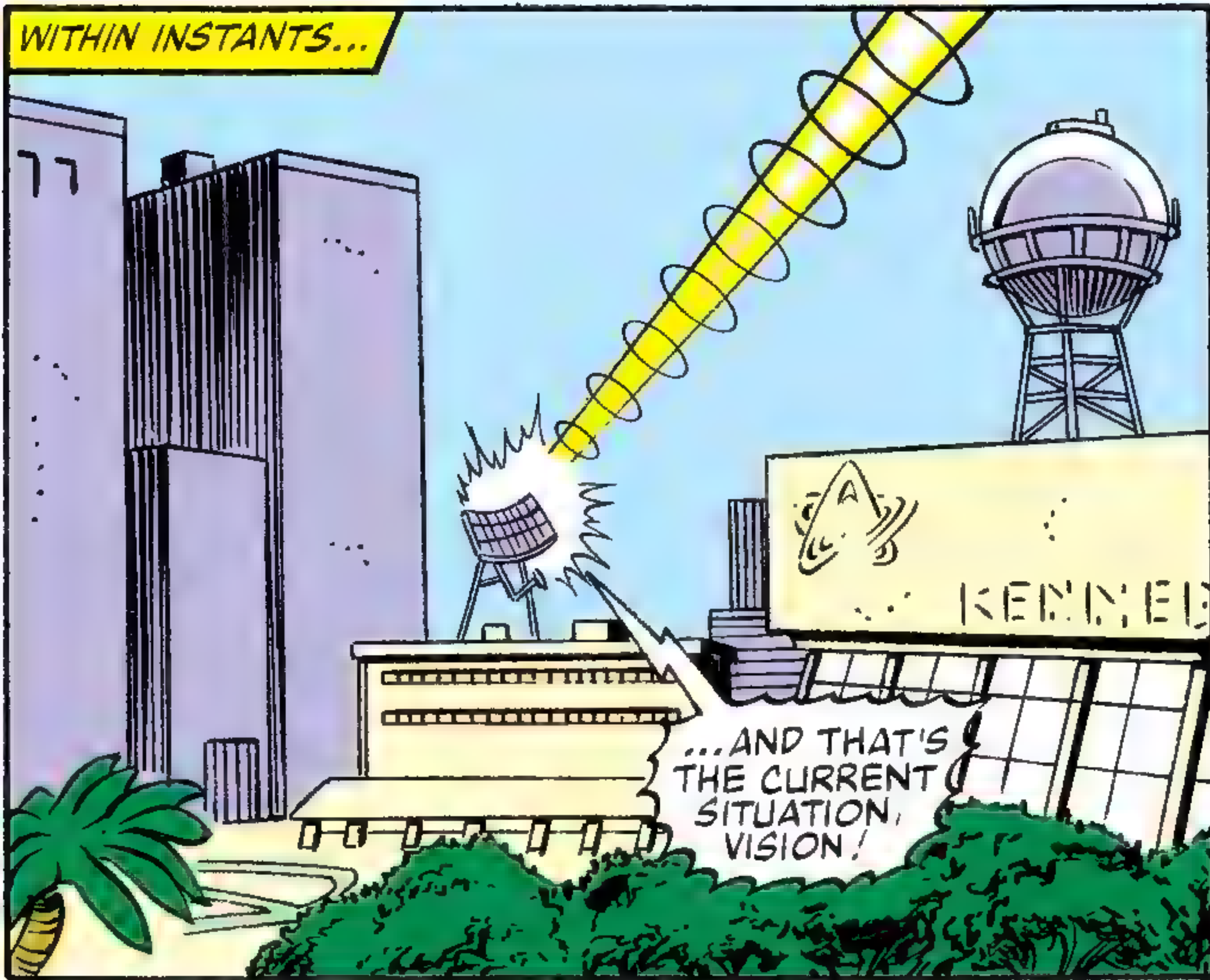
"...IF I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO TURN INTO X-RAYS AND SINK THROUGH THE DECK TO SAFETY! EVEN SO, I WAS SHAKEN ENOUGH THAT IT TOOK ME A FEW MINUTES TO GET MY HEAD BACK TOGETHER!"

HOW CAN I LET THE WASP KNOW I'M OKAY WITHOUT DISTRACTING HER?

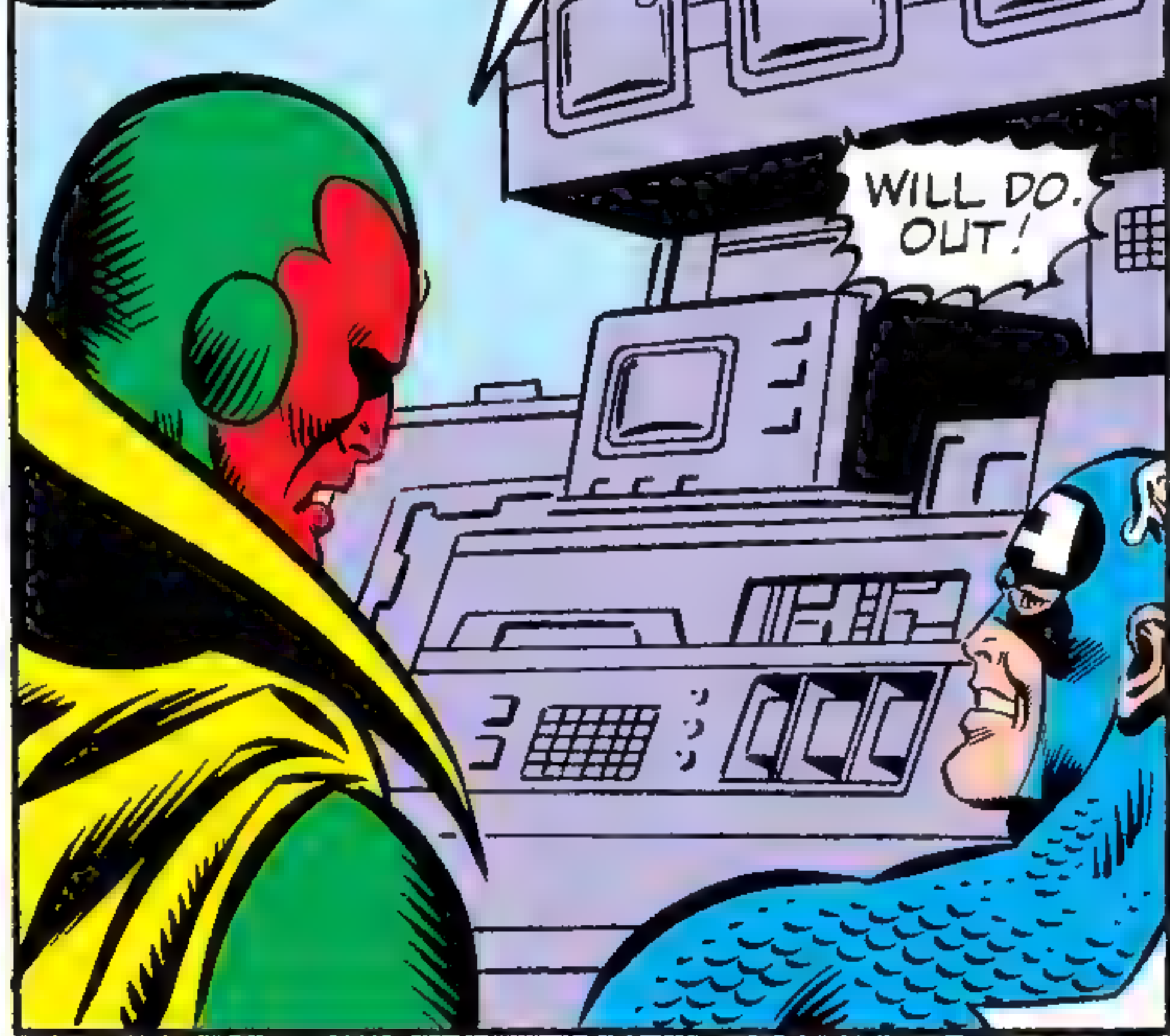
AND DO NOT TRY TO STUN ME AND TAKE OVER THE CONTROLS, HUMAN! YOU COULD NEVER MASTER THEM IN TIME TO AVERT CATASTROPHE!

UH-OH! FROM THE SOUNDS OF THAT, ANY HAPPY REUNIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER I RADIO FOR THE CAVALRY!

WITHIN INSTANTS...



STAY WITH THE SHIP, MARVEL. STAND BY, IN CASE THE WASP NEEDS ASSISTANCE, BUT DO NOT REVEAL YOUR PRESENCE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. HELP WILL BE ON THE WAY!

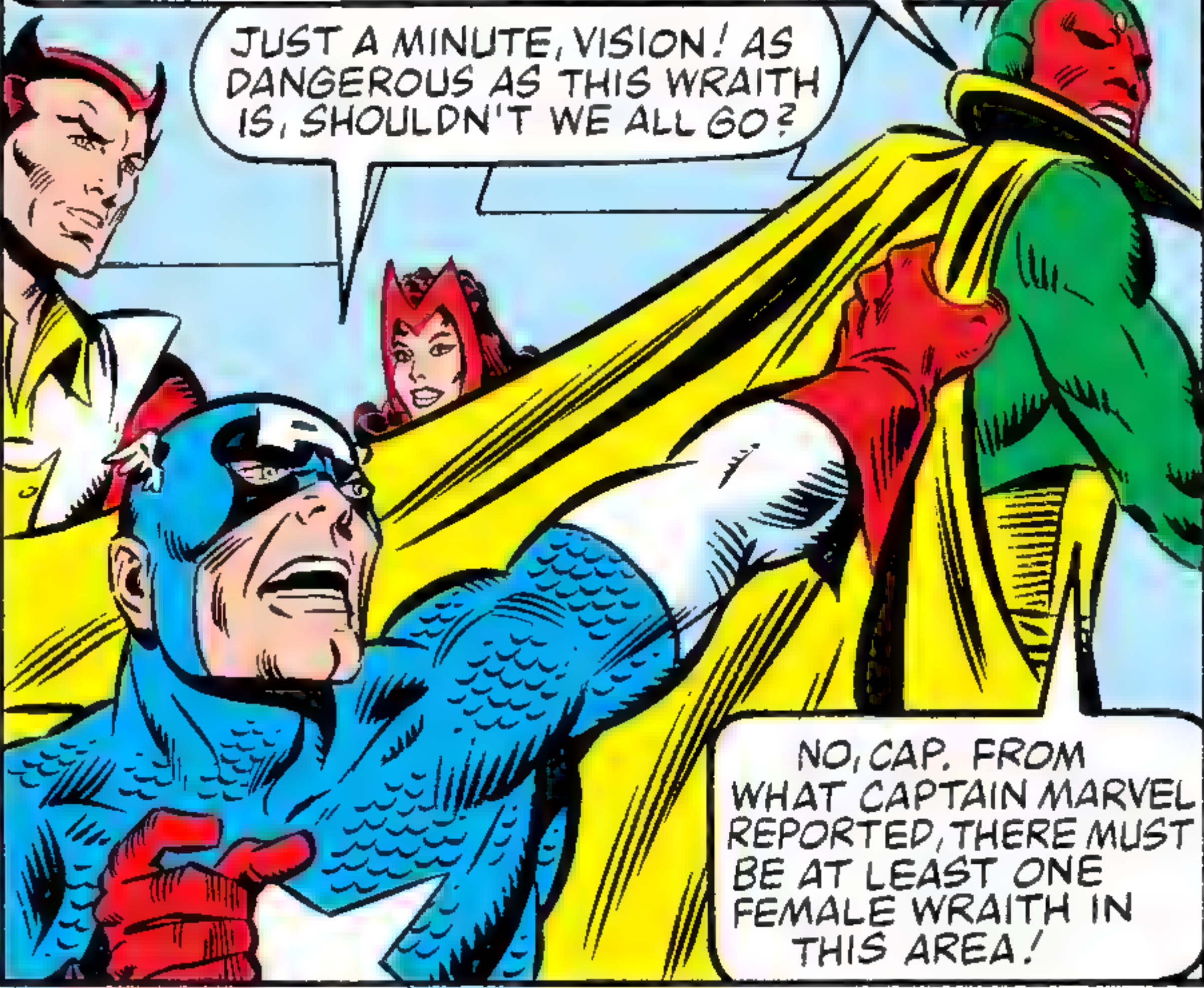


STARFOX! YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH STAR-DRIVE ENGINES--!

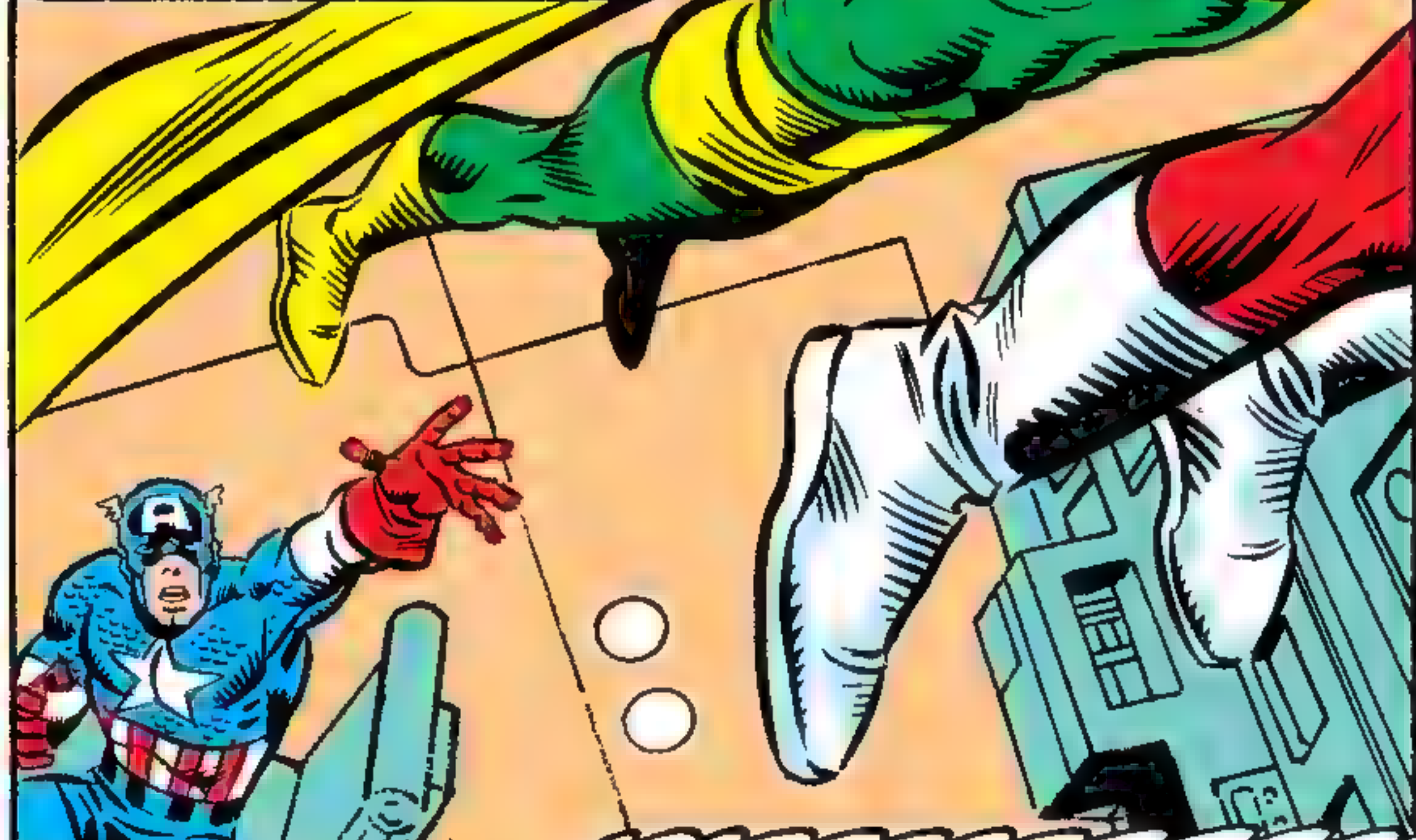
SINCE I WAS A NIMBLE YOUTH, VISION! WHY, BACK ON TITAN, ONE OF THE EARLIEST THINGS WE LEARNED WAS--!



YES, YES! YOU AND I MUST INTERCEPT THE CRAFT AS IT PASSES BY IN ORBIT... THAT'S OUR ONLY HOPE OF CATCHING IT! WANDA AND CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL REMAIN HERE ON GUARD!



AND SHE WILL NO DOUBT BE AFTER THE MALE WRAITHS WE CAPTURED EARLIER.* WE MUST HAVE AVENGERS ON DUTY HERE, TO COVER THAT EVENTUALITY.



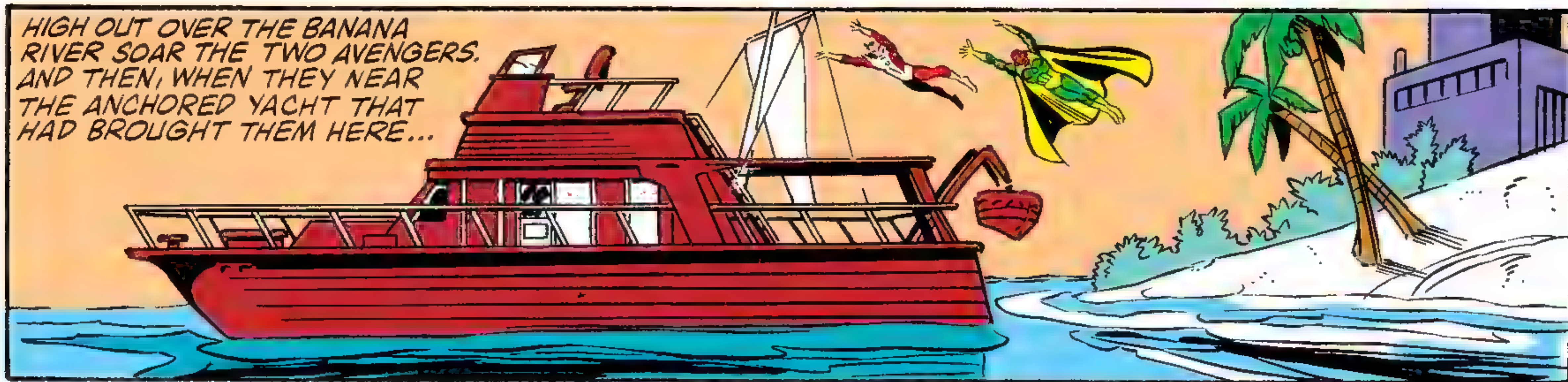
HE'S RIGHT, AS USUAL. SO, WHY DO I SET THE FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING BESIDES LOGIC BEHIND THAT COOL TONE OF COMMAND?

*LAST ISSUE.

YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID, GENERAL! LET'S CHECK ON OUR CAPTIVES!



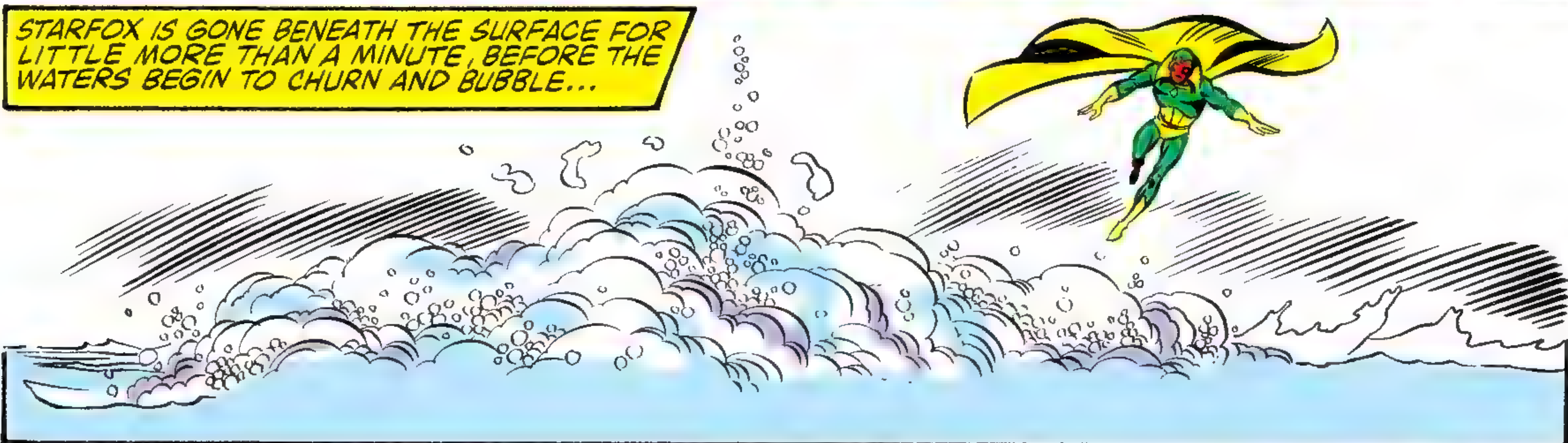
HIGH OUT OVER THE BANANA RIVER SOAR THE TWO AVENGERS. AND THEN, WHEN THEY NEAR THE ANCHORED YACHT THAT HAD BROUGHT THEM HERE...



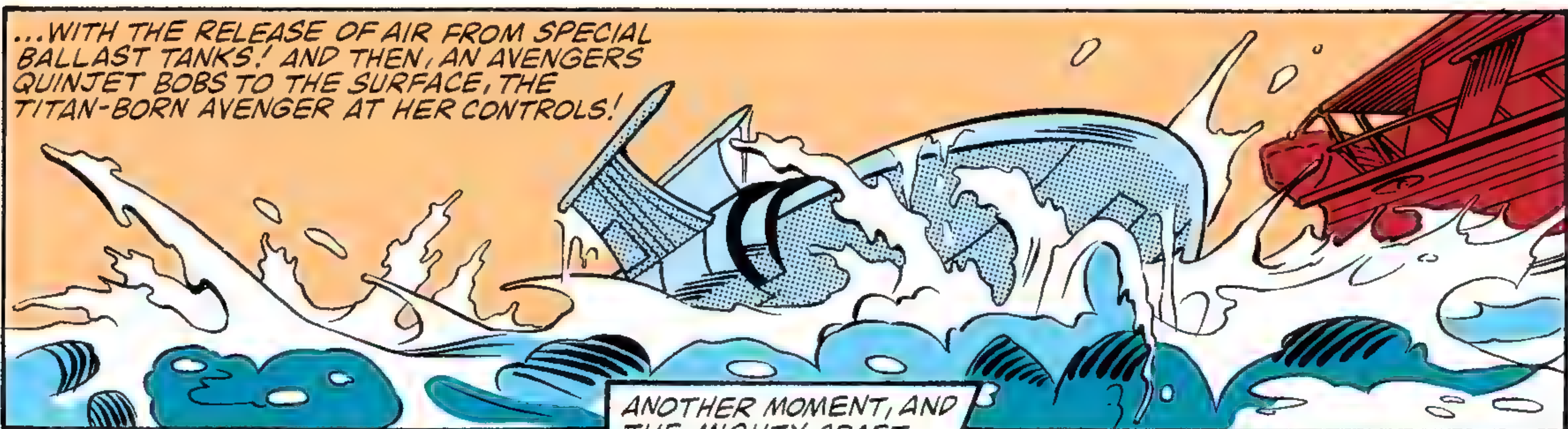
SPLASH



STARFOX IS GONE BENEATH THE SURFACE FOR LITTLE MORE THAN A MINUTE, BEFORE THE WATERS BEGIN TO CHURN AND BUBBLE...



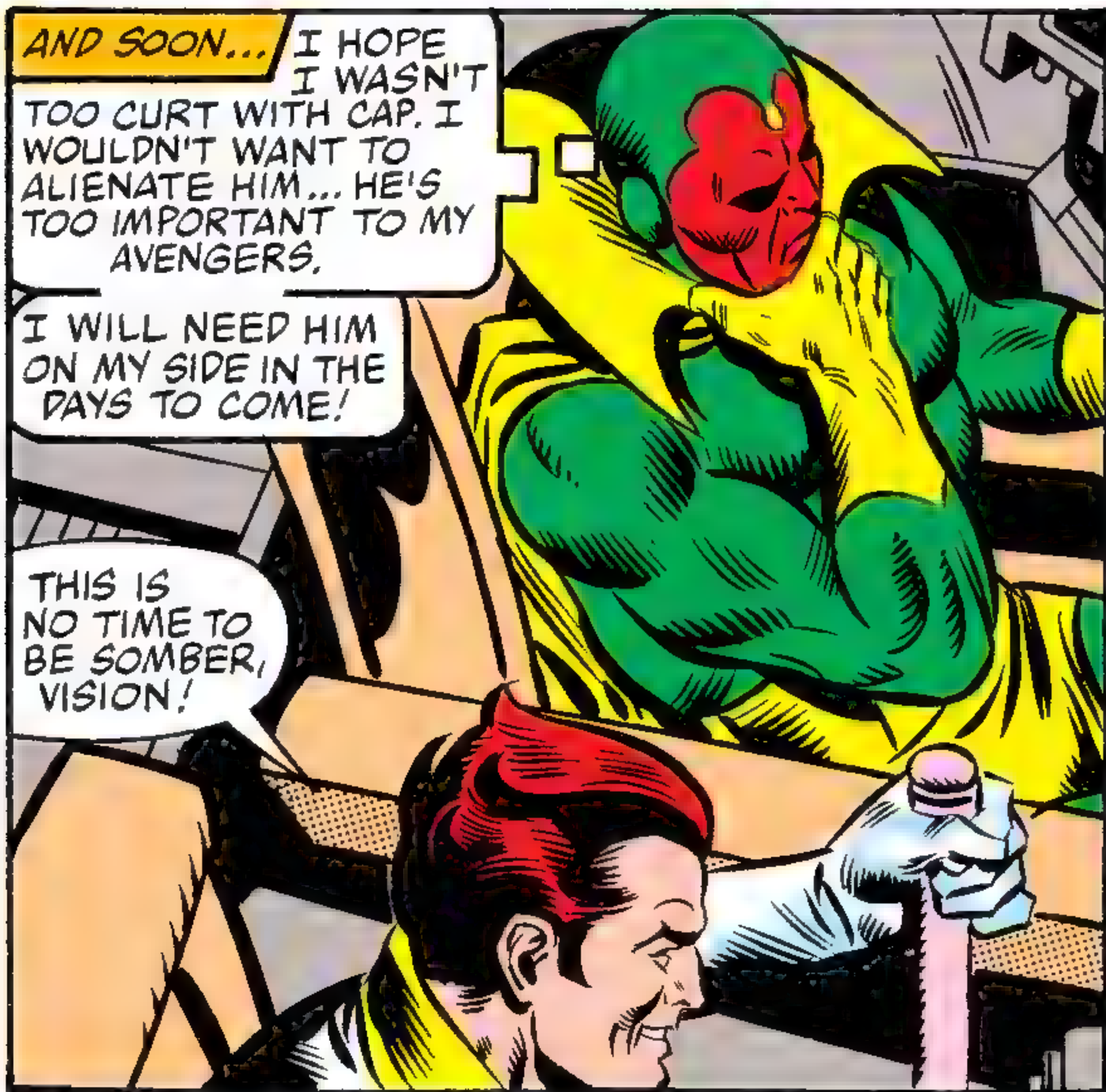
...WITH THE RELEASE OF AIR FROM SPECIAL BALLAST TANKS! AND THEN, AN AVENGERS QUINTJET BOBS TO THE SURFACE, THE TITAN-BORN AVENGER AT HER CONTROLS!



ANOTHER MOMENT, AND THE MIGHTY CRAFT BLASTS SKYWARD...

... AND THE VISION MENTALLY LOWERS HIS BODY'S DENSITY TO SLIP ABOARD IN MIDAIR!

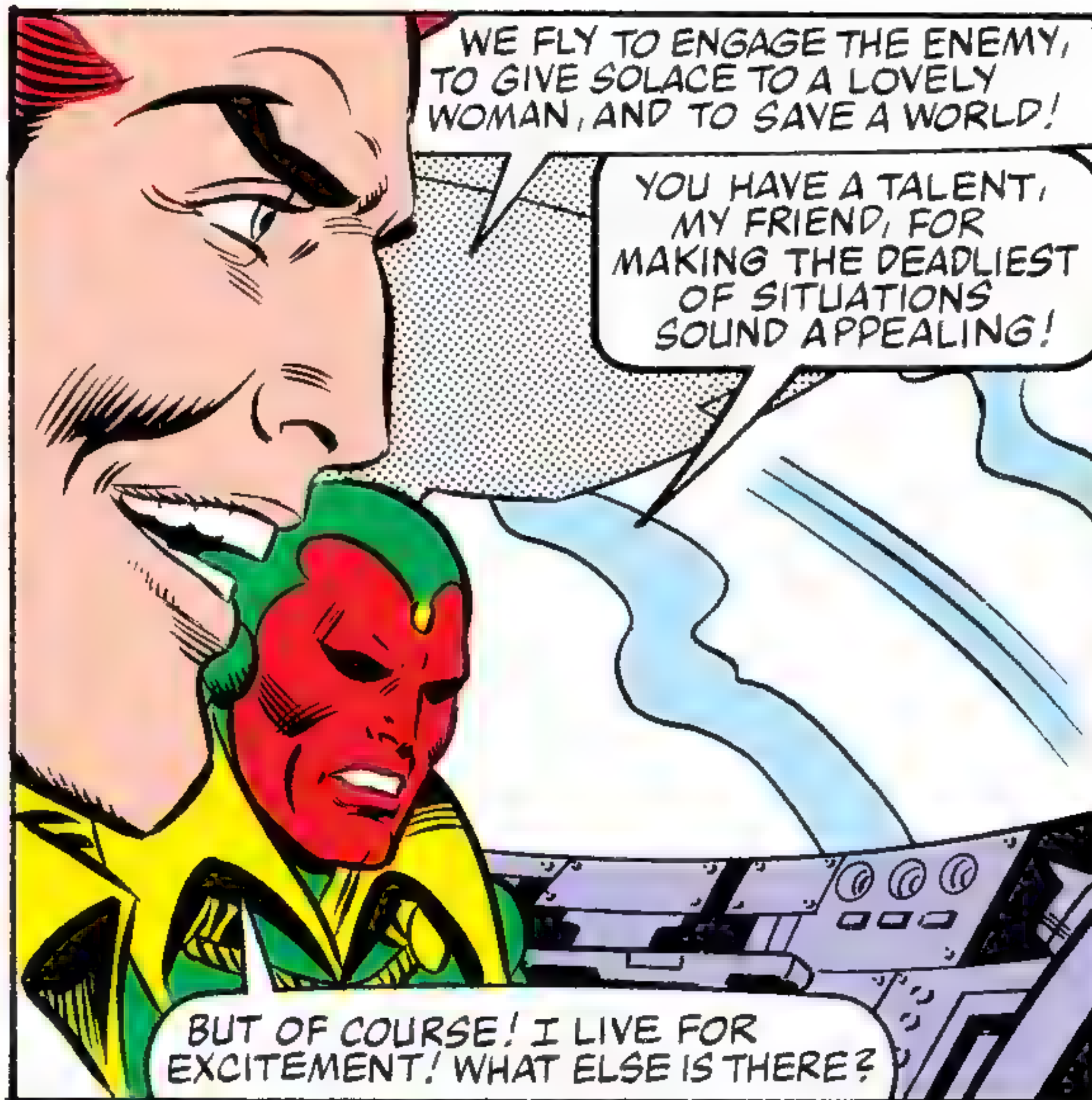




AND SOON... I HOPE I WASN'T TOO CURT WITH CAP. I WOULDN'T WANT TO ALIENATE HIM... HE'S TOO IMPORTANT TO MY AVENGERS.

I WILL NEED HIM ON MY SIDE IN THE DAYS TO COME!

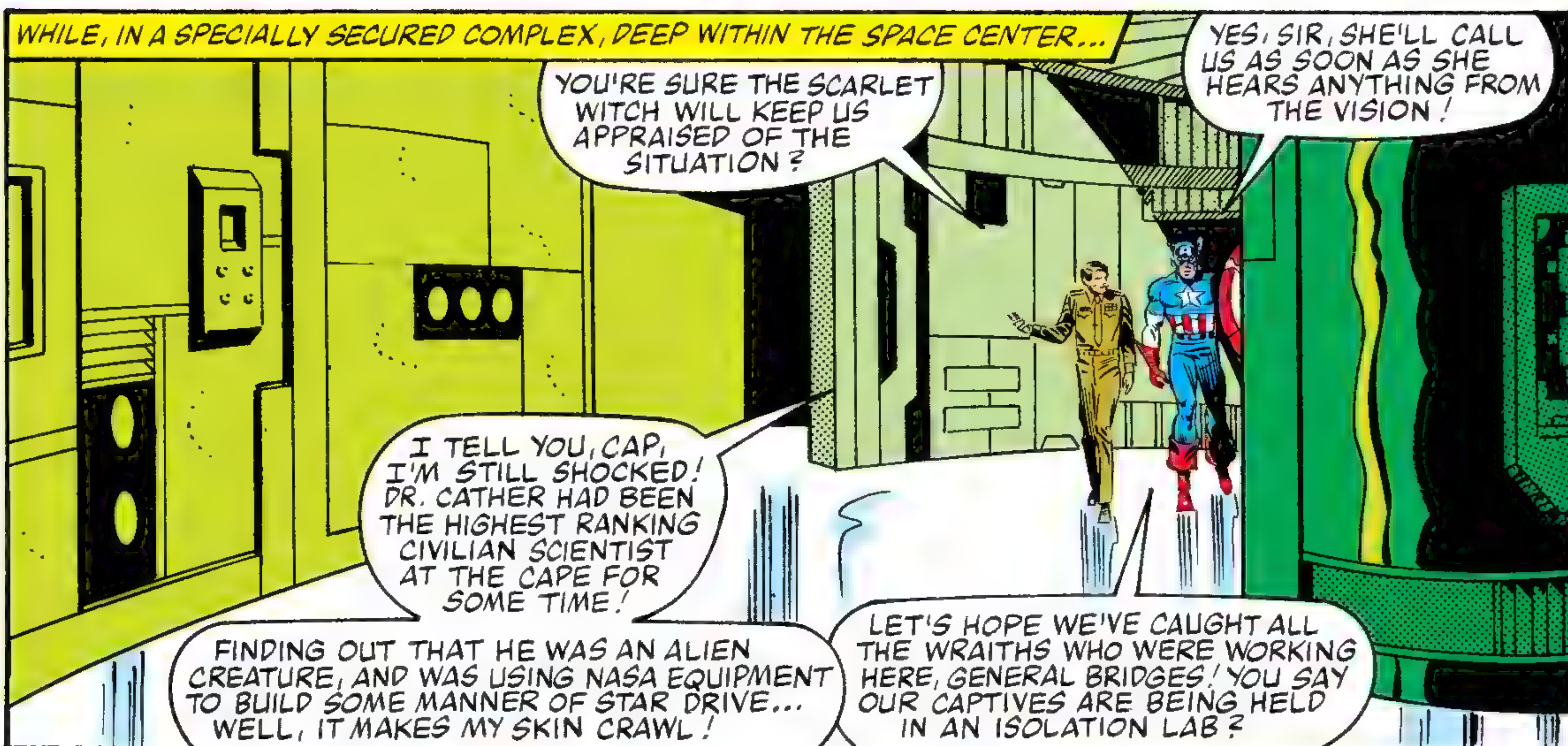
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SOMBER, VISION!



WE FLY TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY, TO GIVE SOLACE TO A LOVELY WOMAN, AND TO SAVE A WORLD!

YOU HAVE A TALENT, MY FRIEND, FOR MAKING THE DEADLIEST OF SITUATIONS SOUND APPEALING!

BUT OF COURSE! I LIVE FOR EXCITEMENT! WHAT ELSE IS THERE?



WHILE, IN A SPECIALLY SECURED COMPLEX, DEEP WITHIN THE SPACE CENTER...

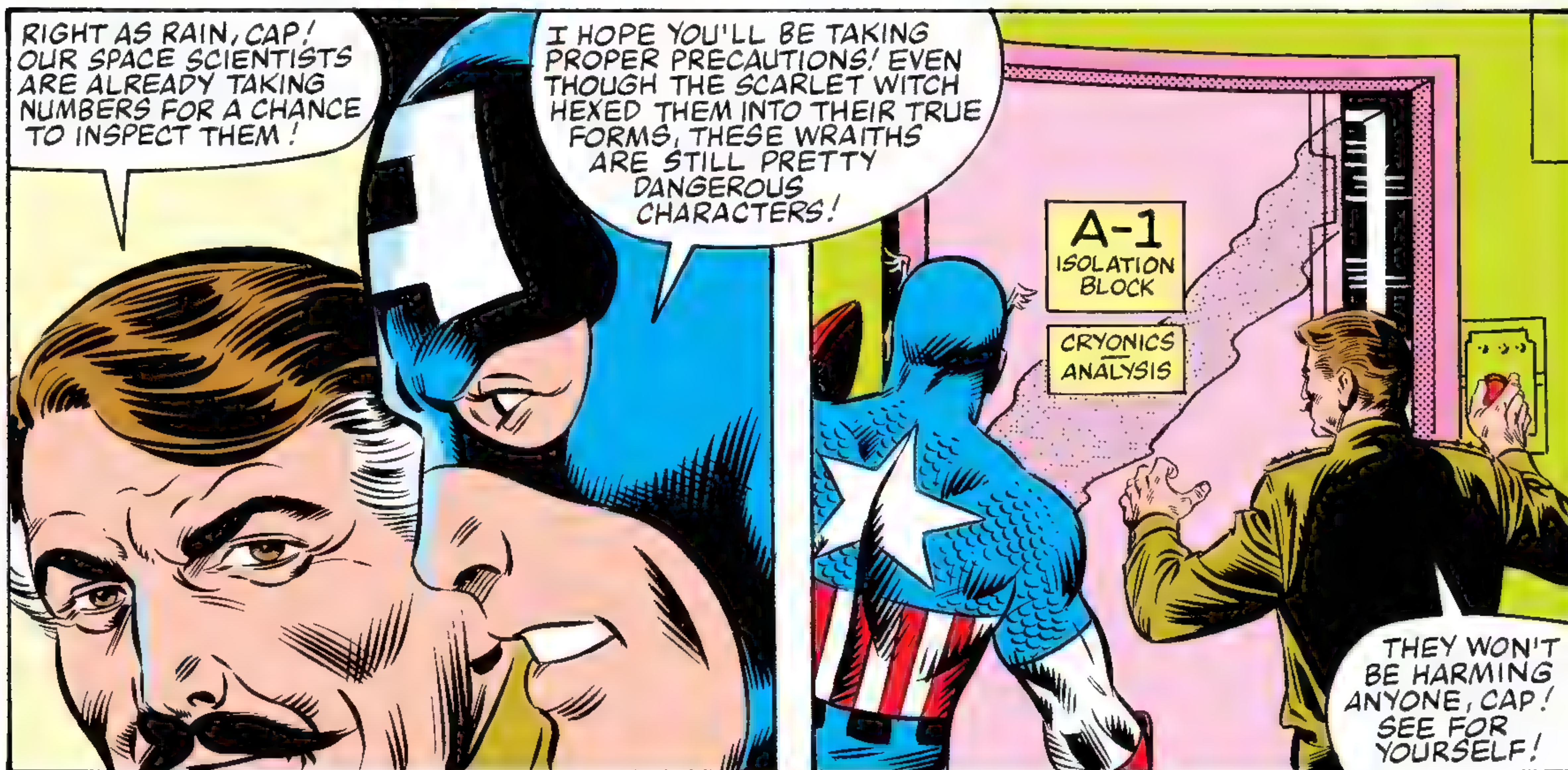
YOU'RE SURE THE SCARLET WITCH WILL KEEP US APPRAISED OF THE SITUATION?

YES, SIR, SHE'LL CALL US AS SOON AS SHE HEARS ANYTHING FROM THE VISION!

I TELL YOU, CAP, I'M STILL SHOCKED! DR. CATHER HAD BEEN THE HIGHEST RANKING CIVILIAN SCIENTIST AT THE CAPE FOR SOME TIME!

FINDING OUT THAT HE WAS AN ALIEN CREATURE, AND WAS USING NASA EQUIPMENT TO BUILD SOME MANNER OF STAR DRIVE... WELL, IT MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL!

LET'S HOPE WE'VE CAUGHT ALL THE WRAITHS WHO WERE WORKING HERE, GENERAL BRIDGES! YOU SAY OUR CAPTIVES ARE BEING HELD IN AN ISOLATION LAB?

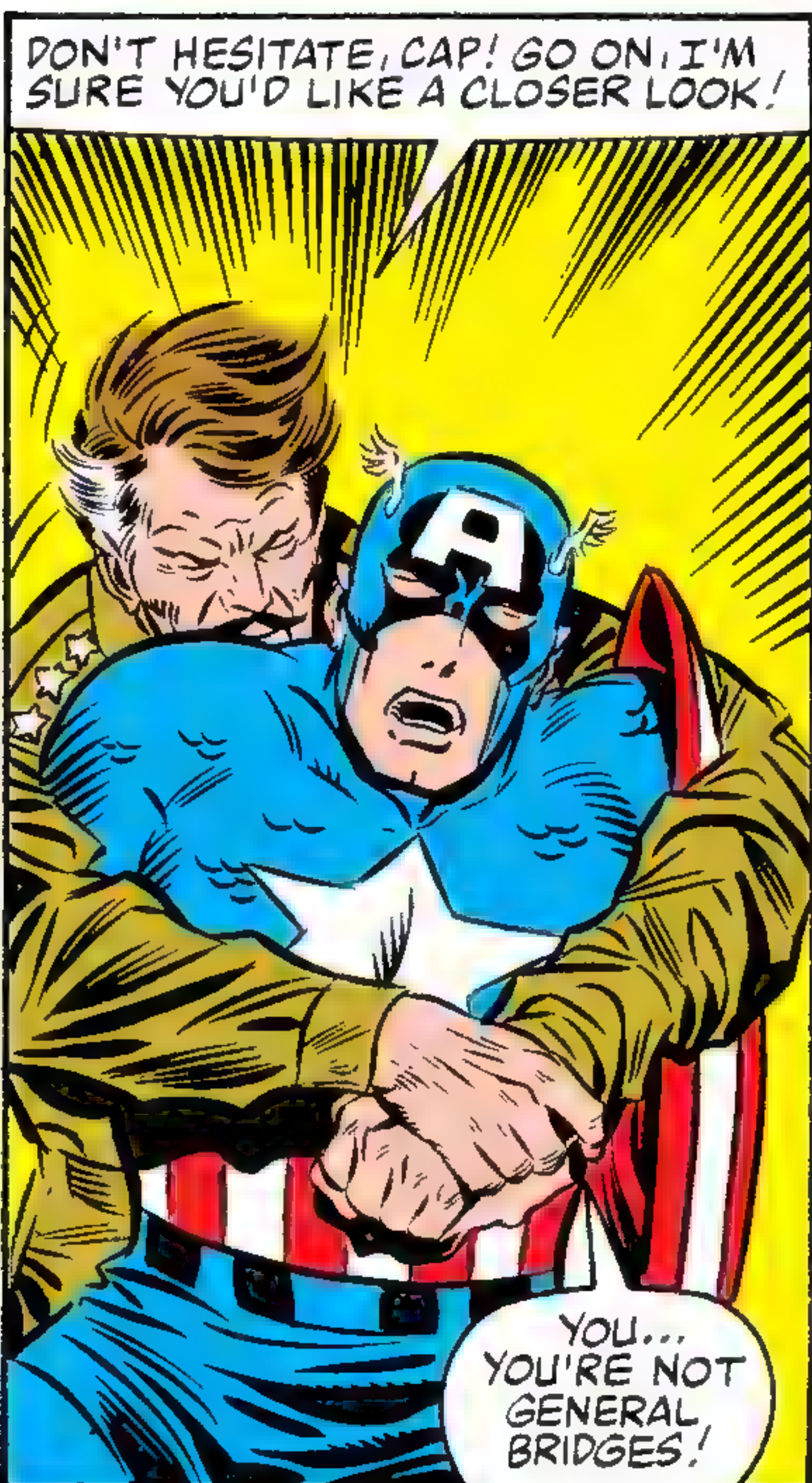
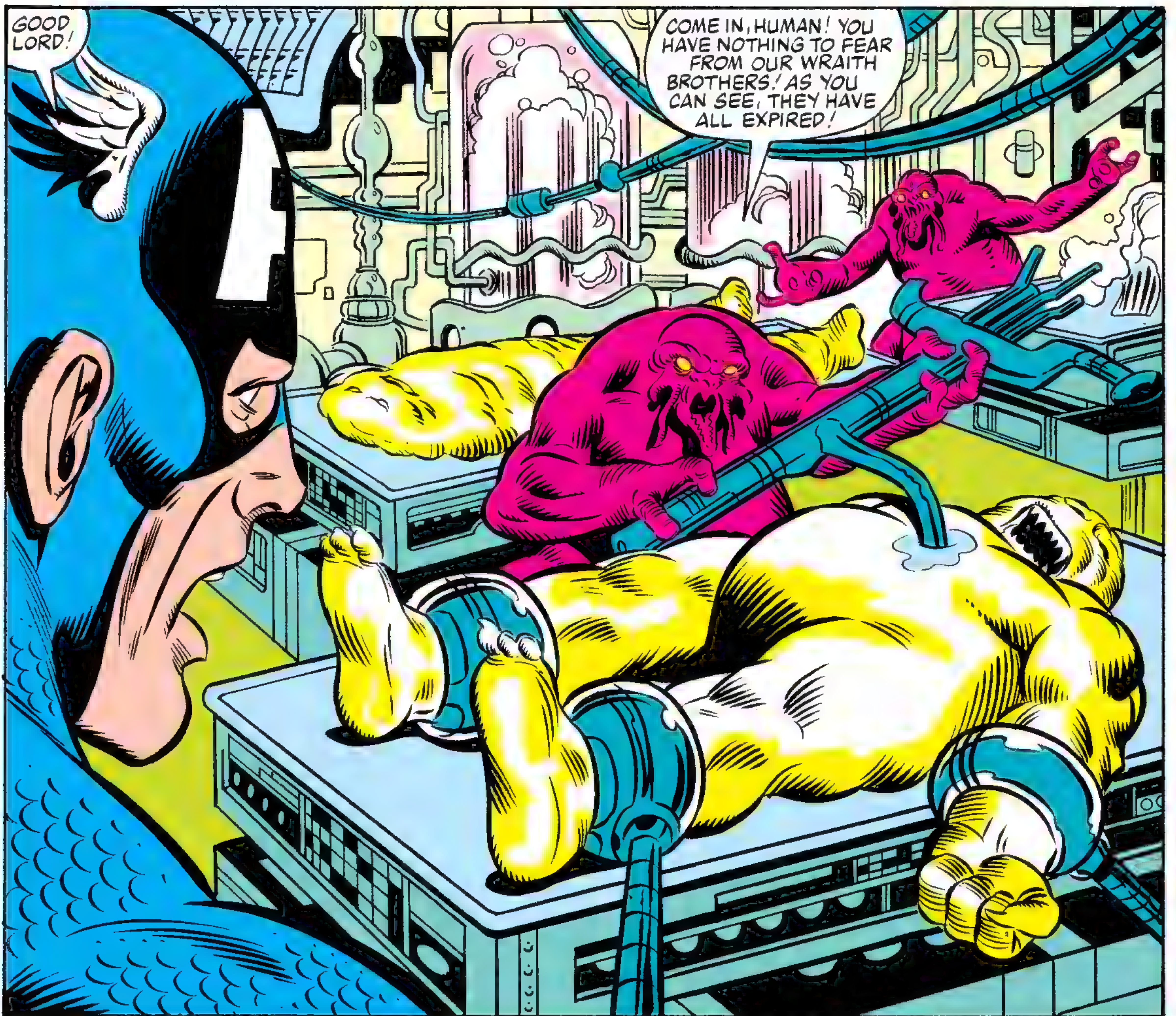


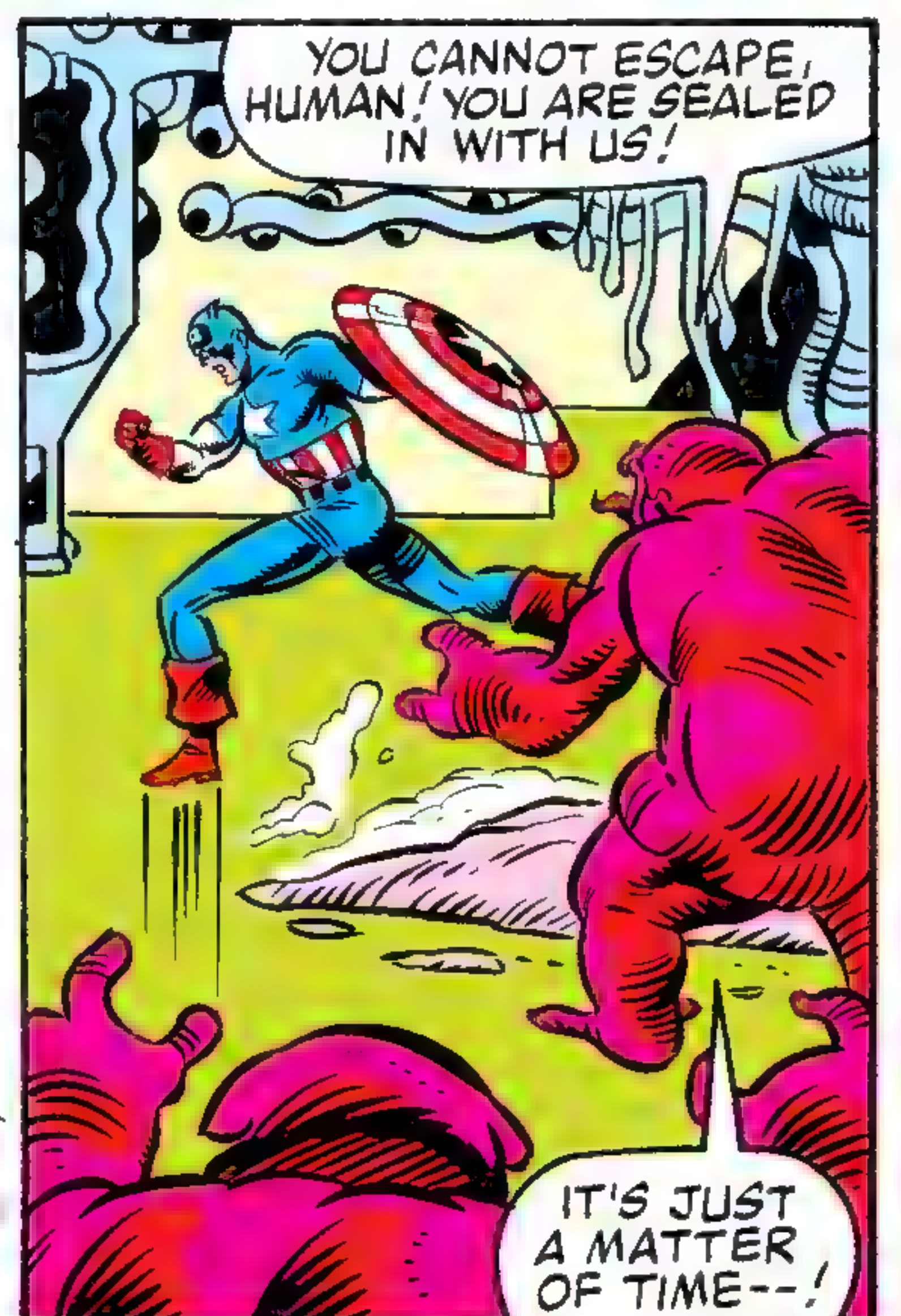
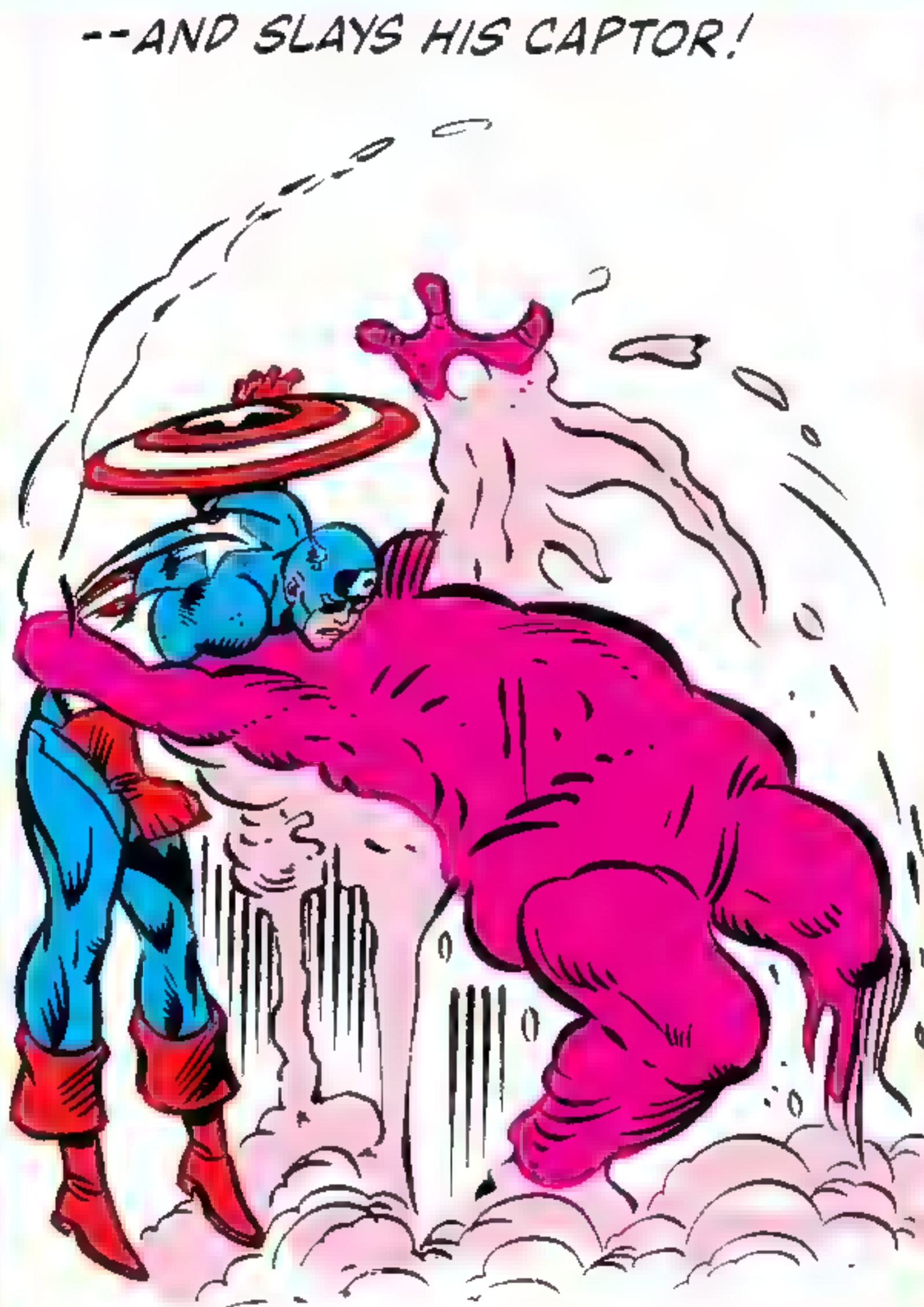
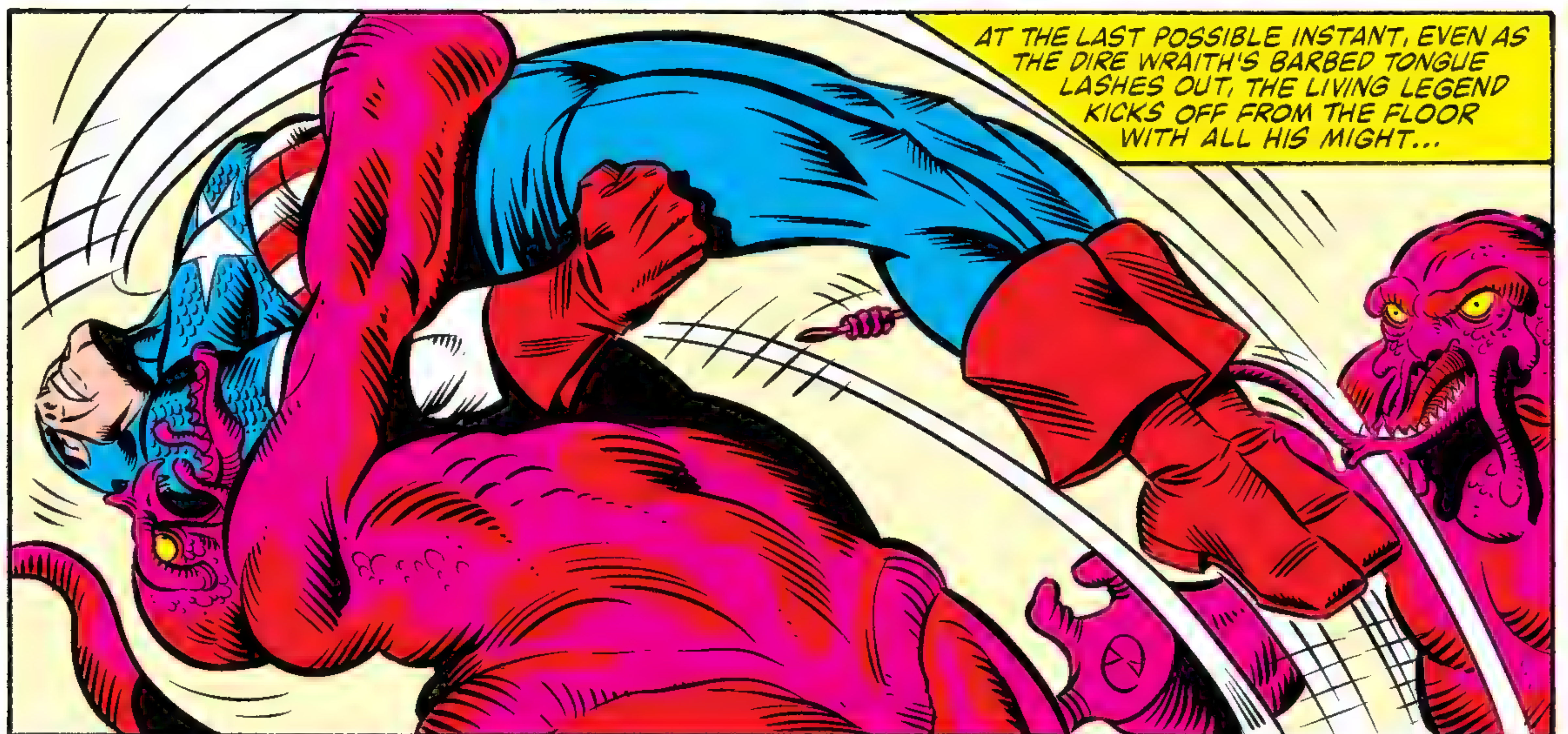
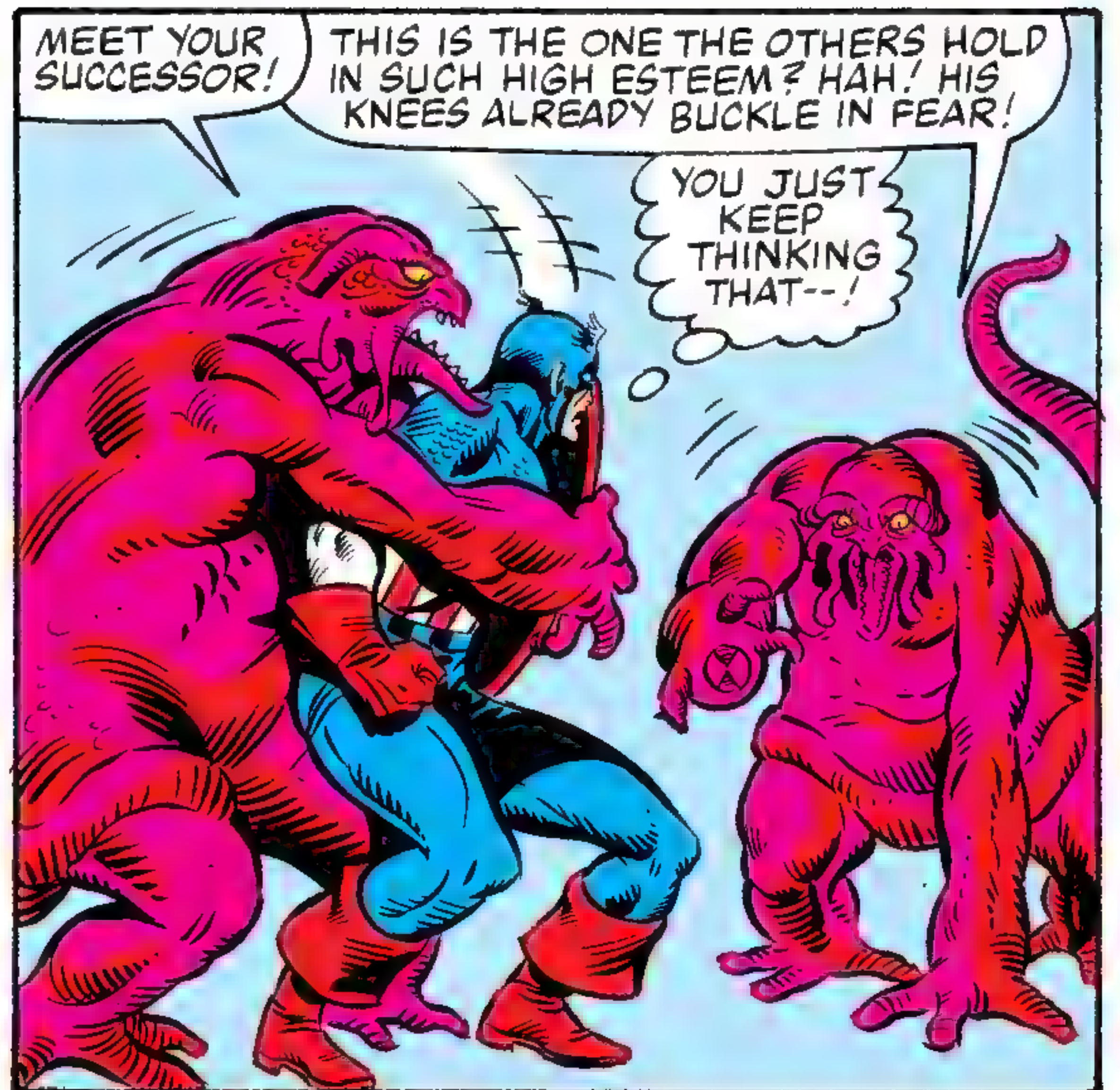
RIGHT AS RAIN, CAP! OUR SPACE SCIENTISTS ARE ALREADY TAKING NUMBERS FOR A CHANCE TO INSPECT THEM!

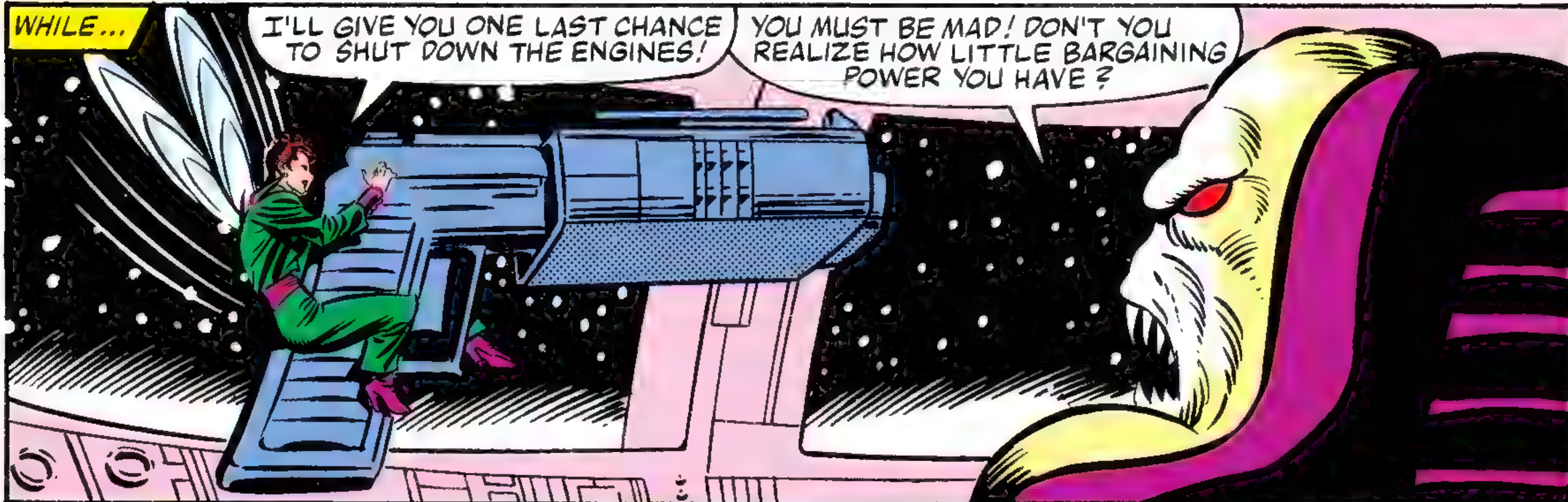
I HOPE YOU'LL BE TAKING PROPER PRECAUTIONS! EVEN THOUGH THE SCARLET WITCH HEXED THEM INTO THEIR TRUE FORMS, THESE WRAITHS ARE STILL PRETTY DANGEROUS CHARACTERS!

A-1 ISOLATION BLOCK
CRYONICS ANALYSIS

THEY WON'T BE HARMING ANYONE, CAP! SEE FOR YOURSELF!







WHILE...

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE TO SHUT DOWN THE ENGINES!

YOU MUST BE MAD! DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW LITTLE BARGAINING POWER YOU HAVE?



I WILL NOT RELINQUISH THE CONTROLS OR RETURN US TO EARTH! TO DO SO IS SUICIDAL! YOUR CHOICE IS TO KILL ME NOW AND DIE QUICKLY, OR ALLOW ME TO ESCAPE INTO DEEP SPACE... AND TAKE YOUR CHANCES!

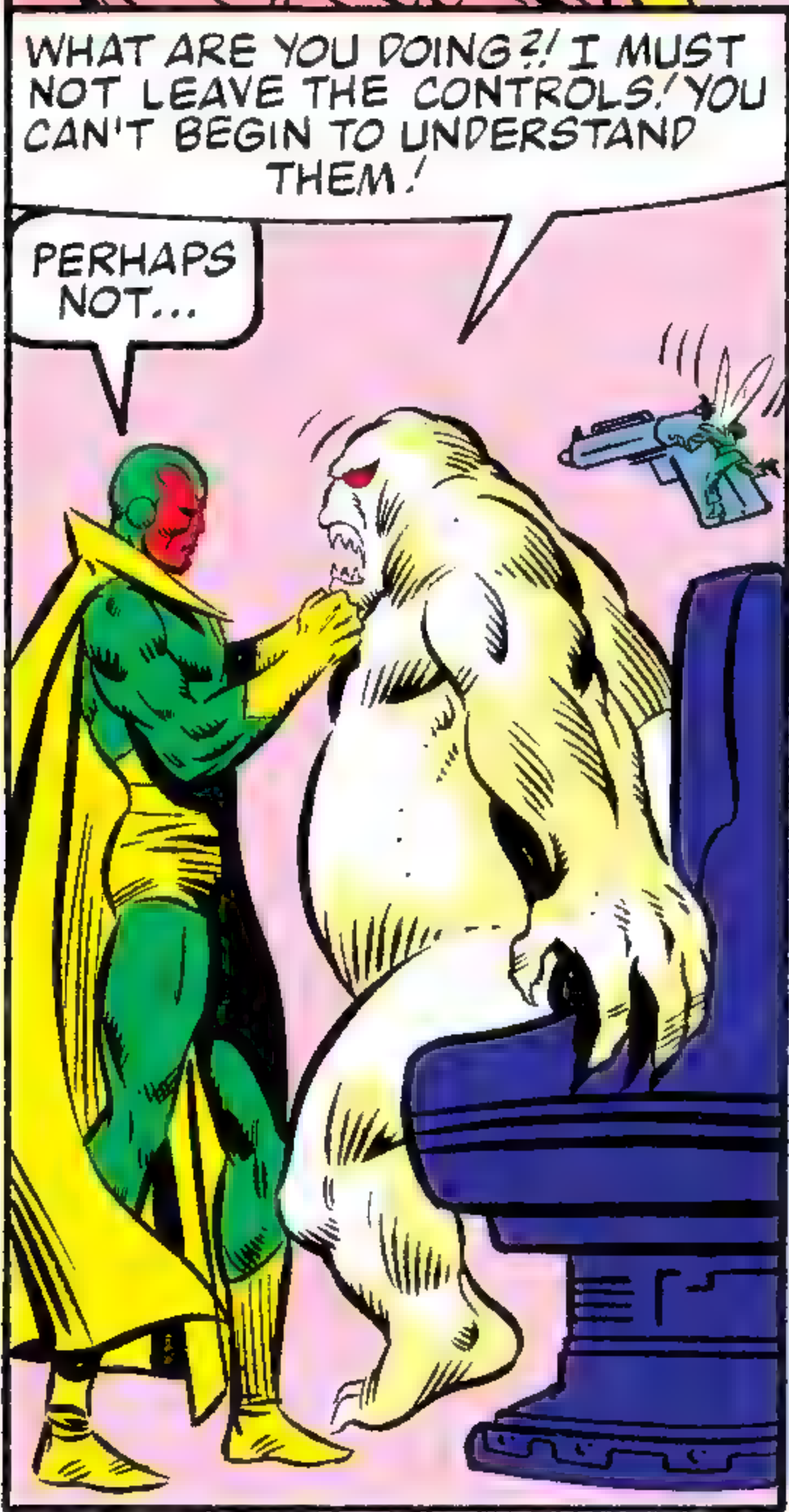
THE ENGINES GROW LESS STABLE WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT! IF WE DON'T LEAVE ORBIT SOON, YOU'LL DOOM YOUR WORLD!



THEN I'D SAY WE MUST DO SOMETHING QUICKLY!

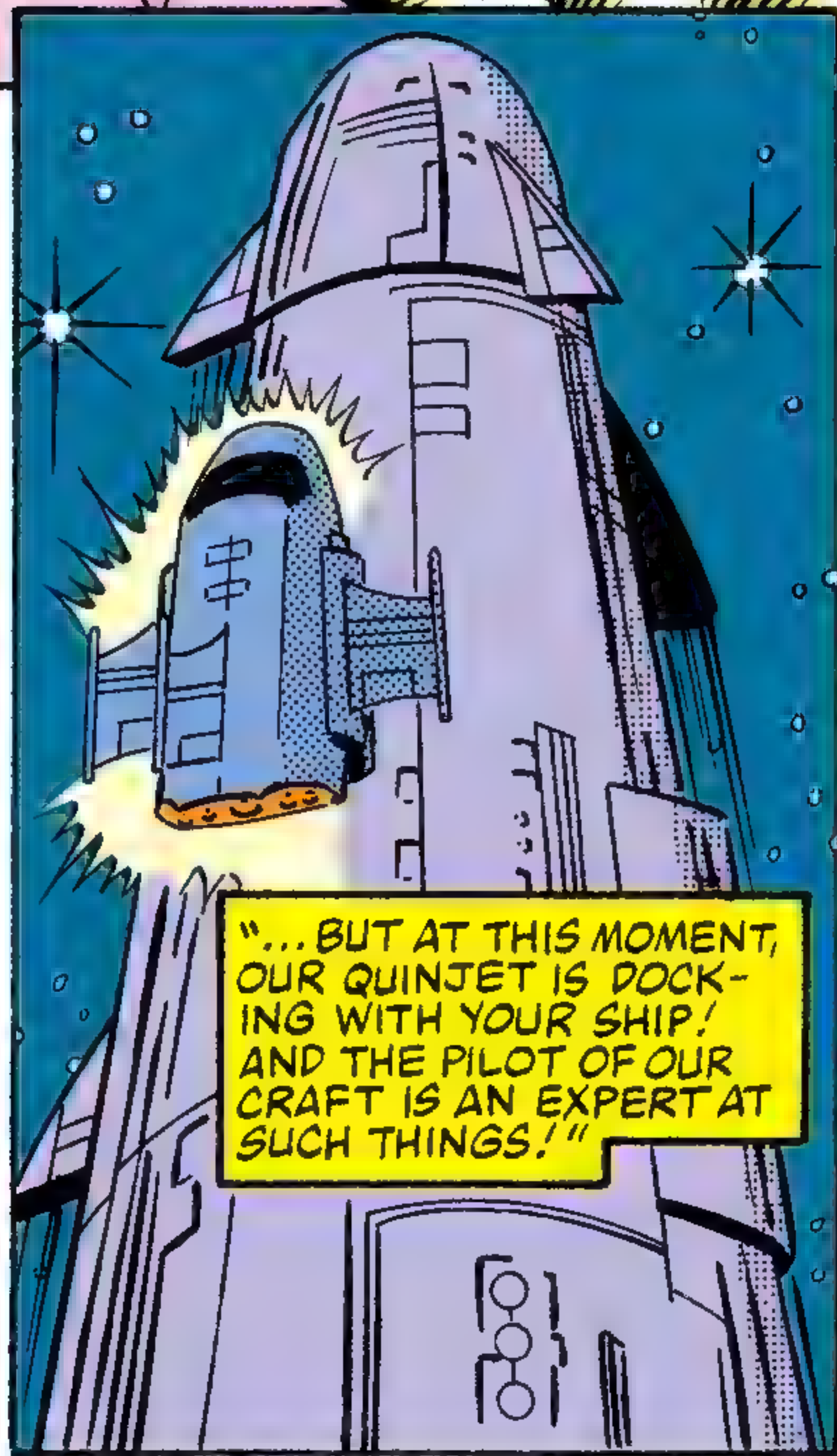
EH?

VISION, ARE YOU EVER A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! I MUST NOT LEAVE THE CONTROLS! YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THEM!

PERHAPS NOT...

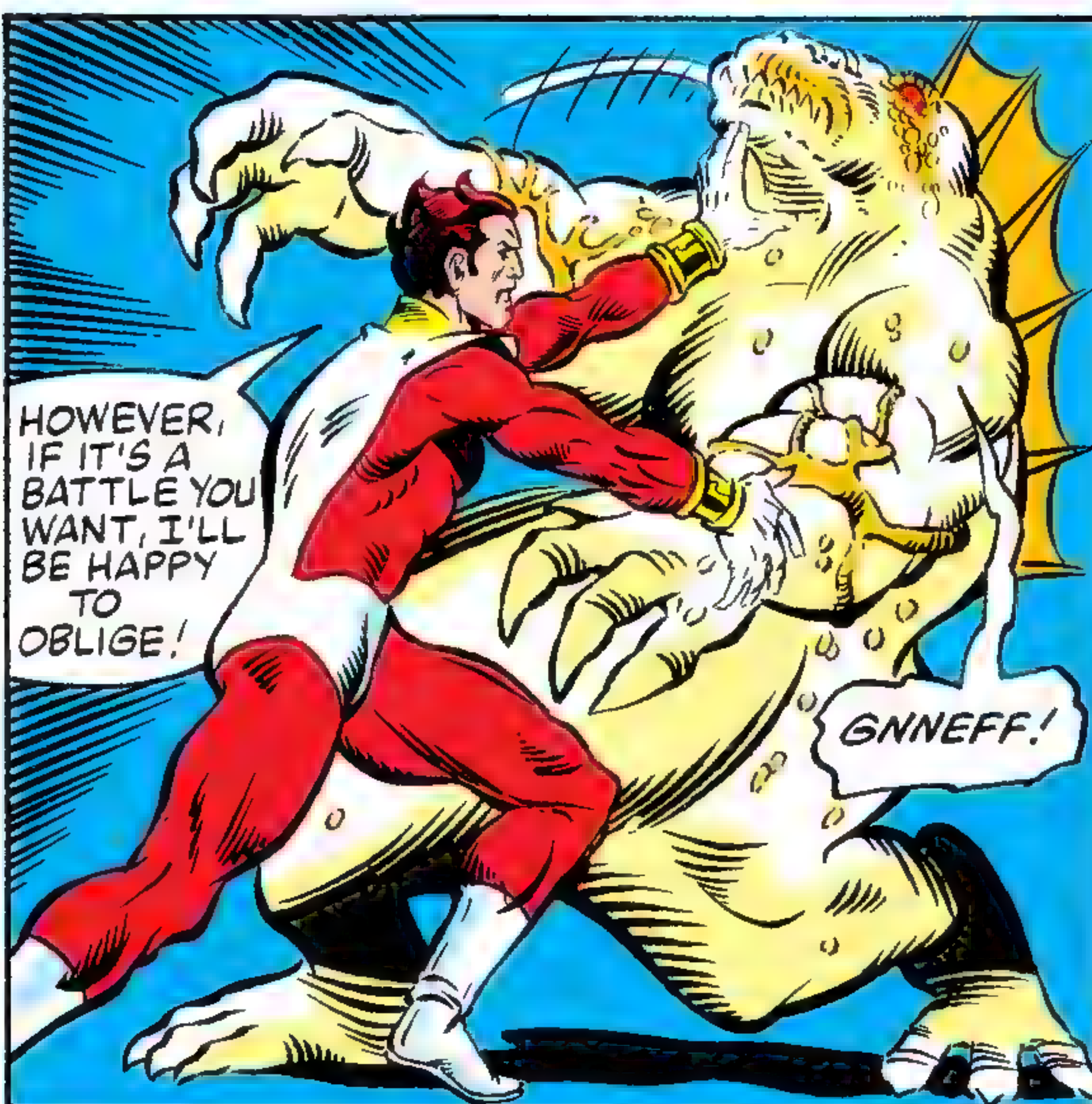
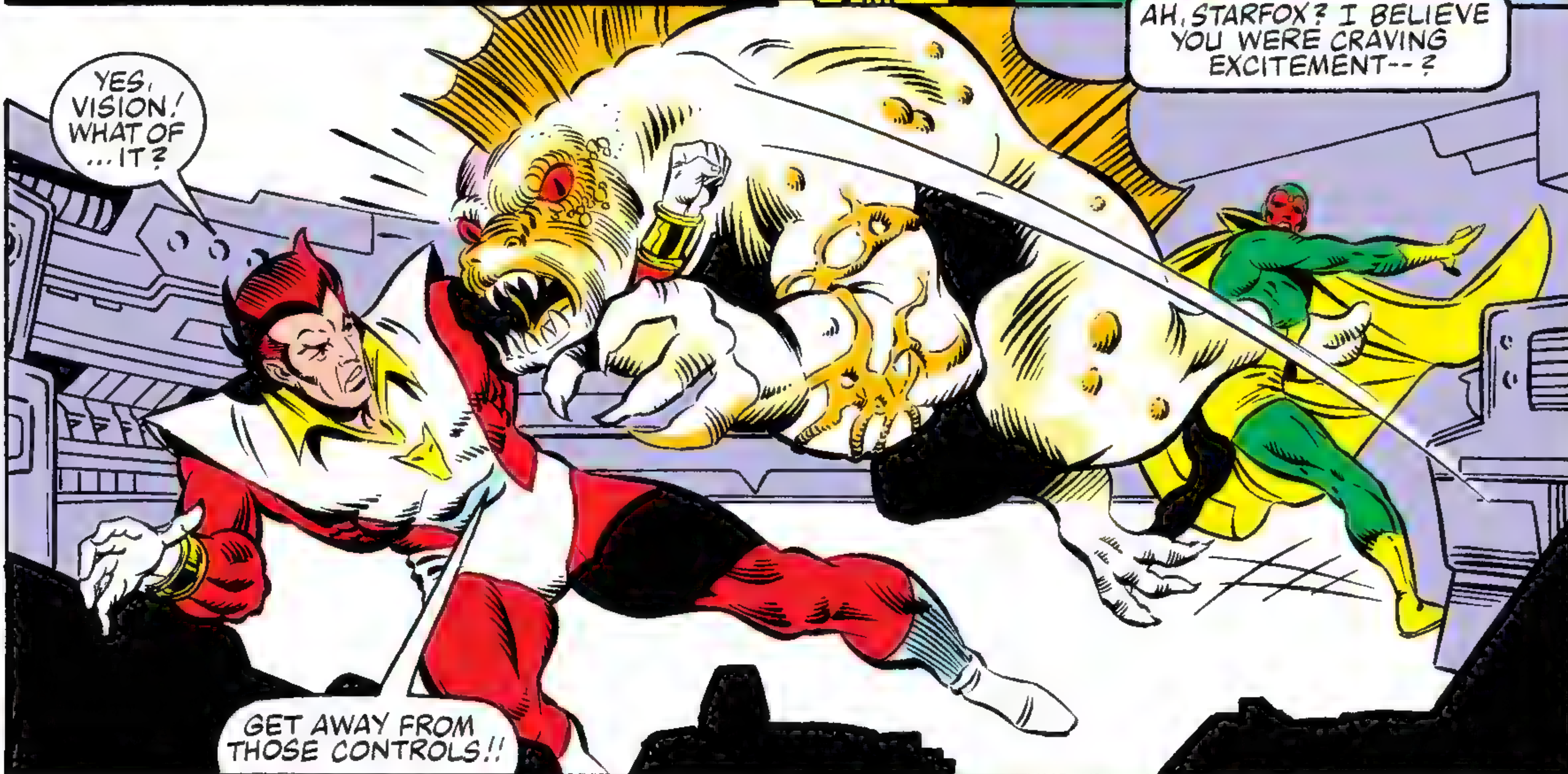
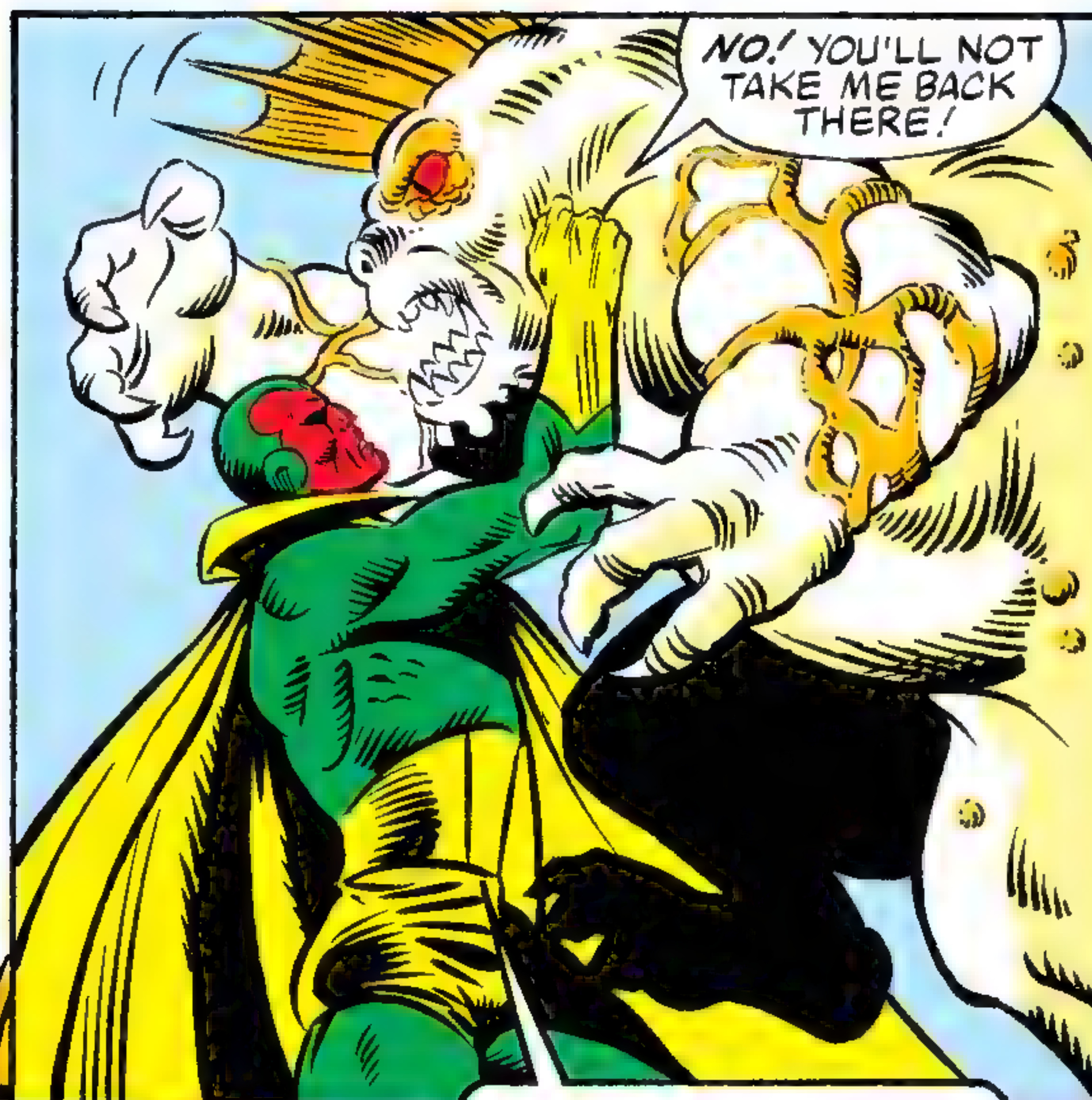
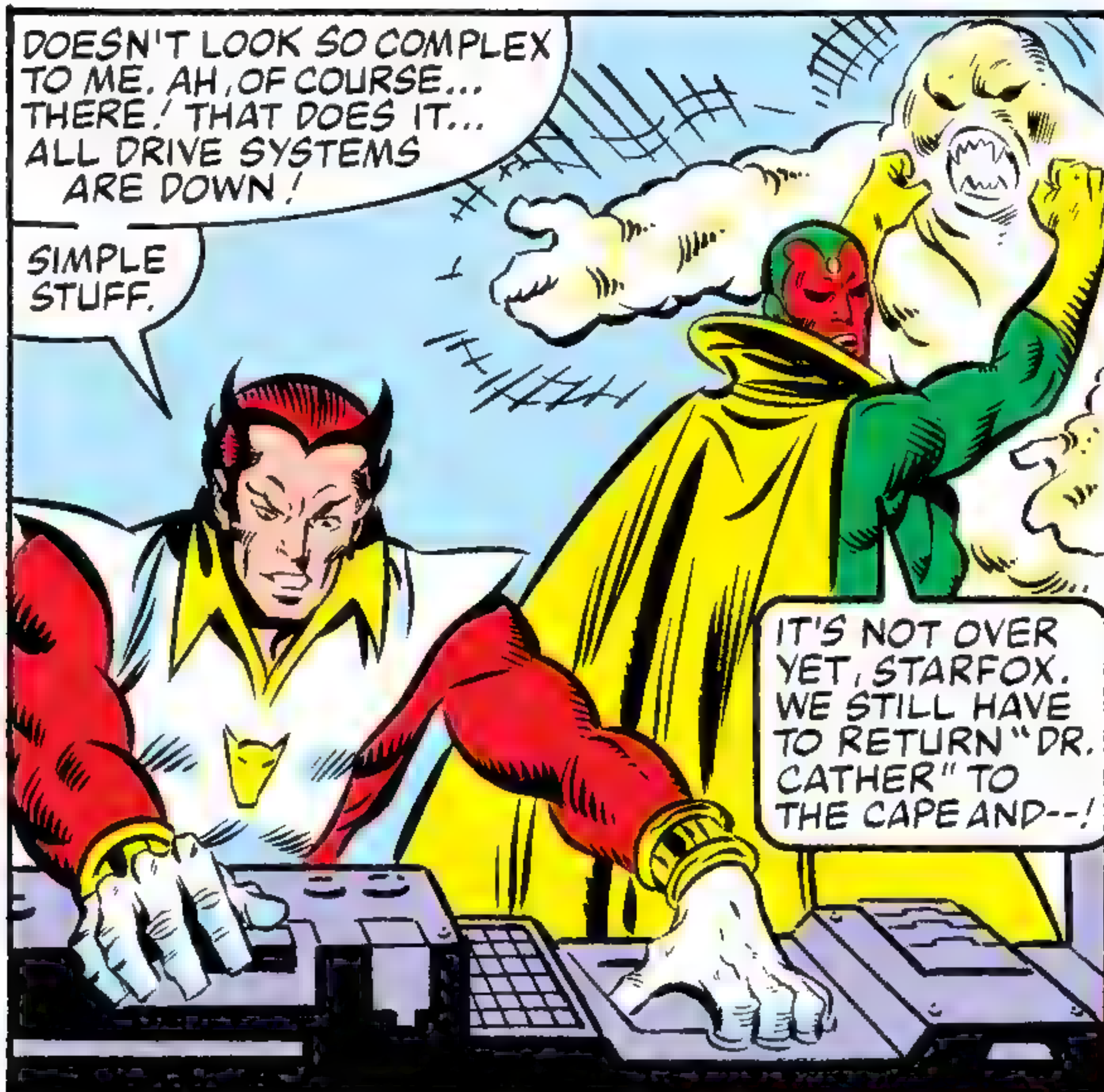


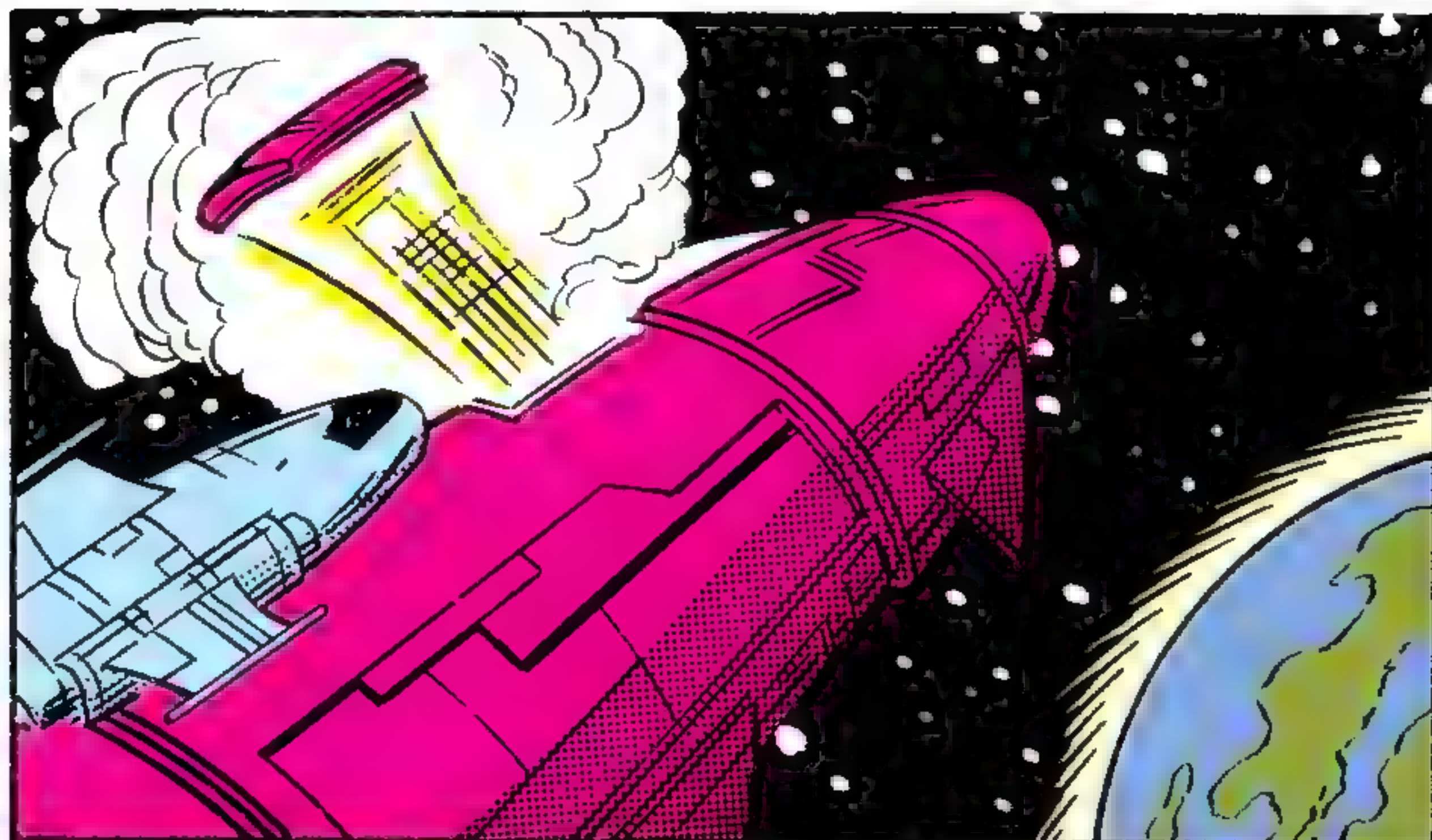
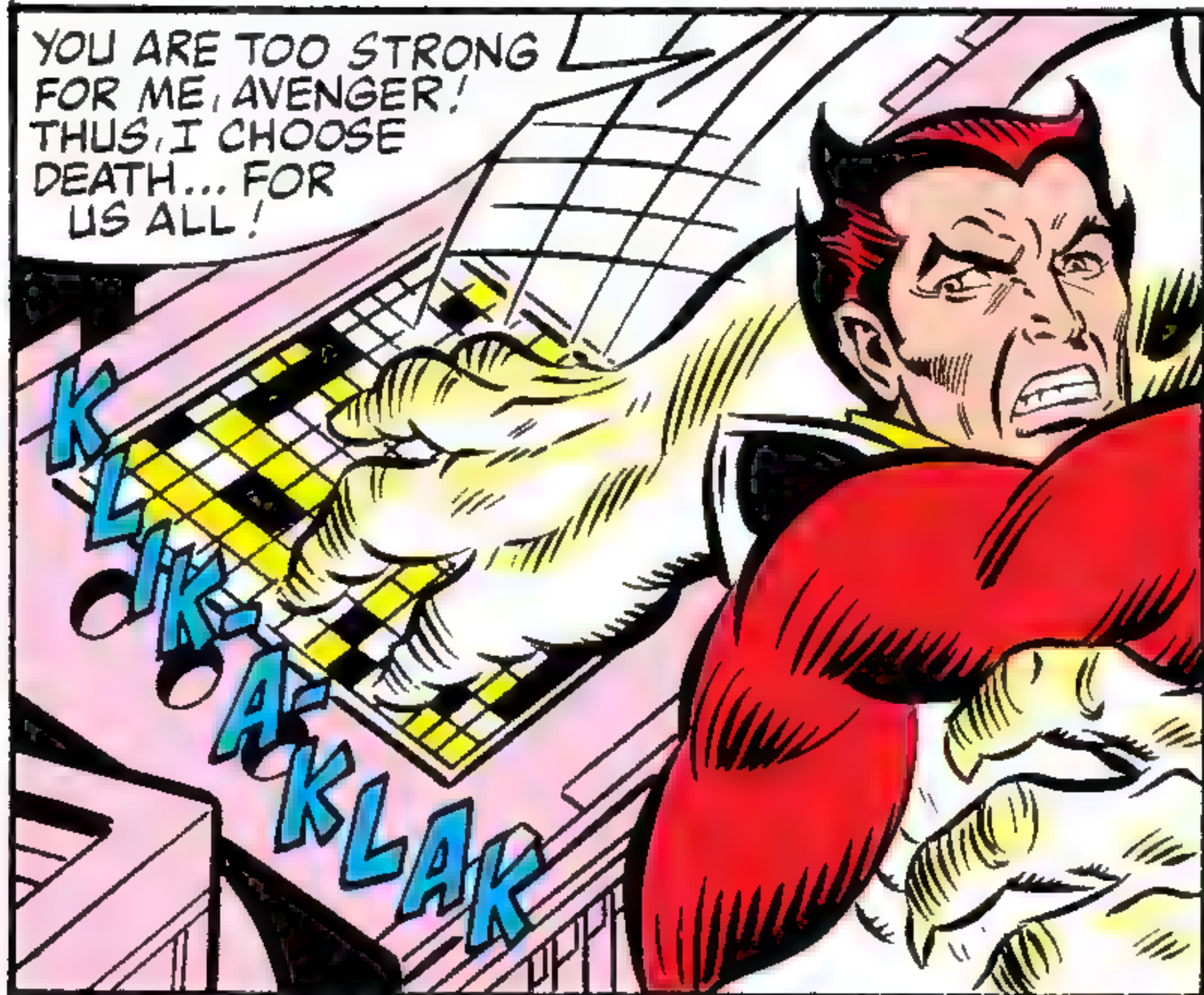
"... BUT AT THIS MOMENT, OUR QUINJET IS DOCKING WITH YOUR SHIP! AND THE PILOT OF OUR CRAFT IS AN EXPERT AT SUCH THINGS!"



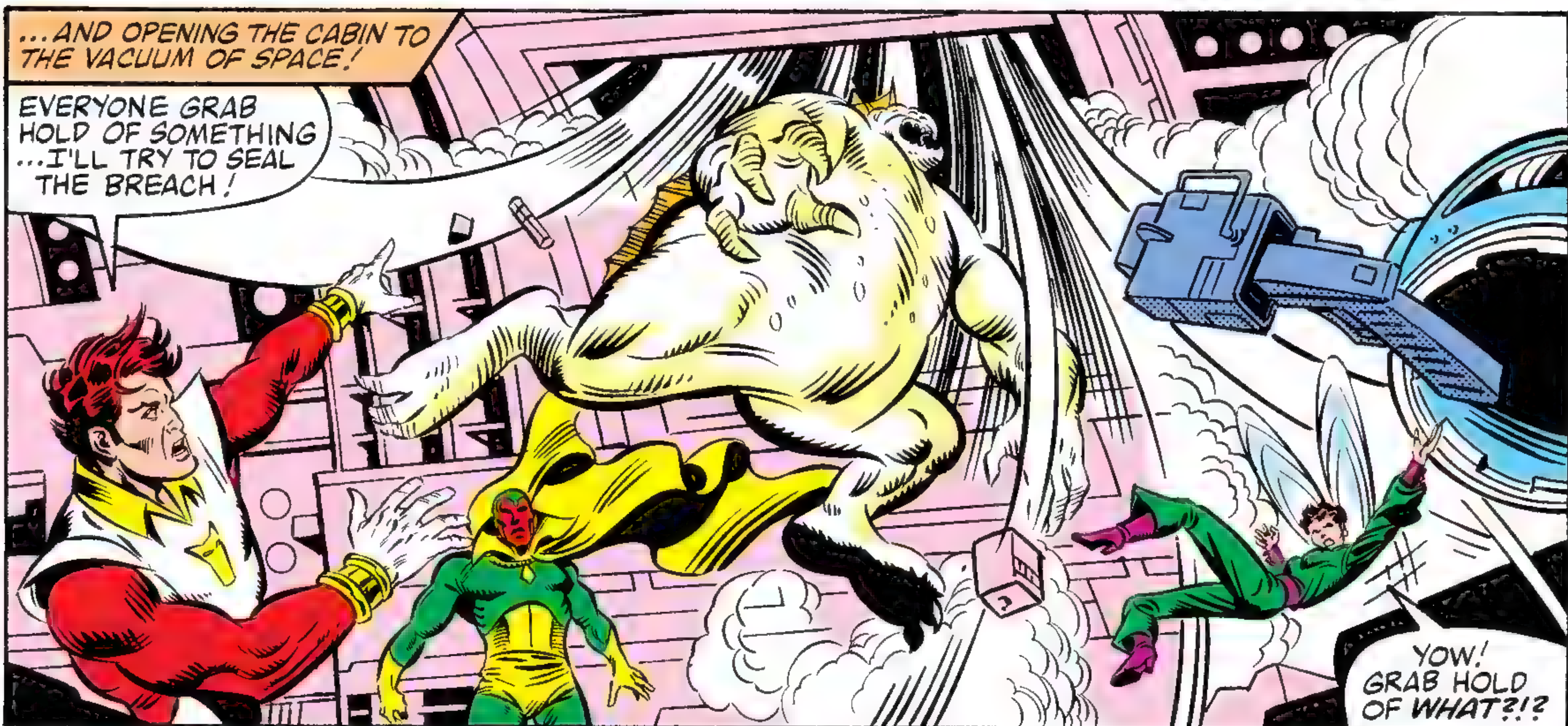
HELLO, ALL! MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?

OVER THERE, STAR-FOX!





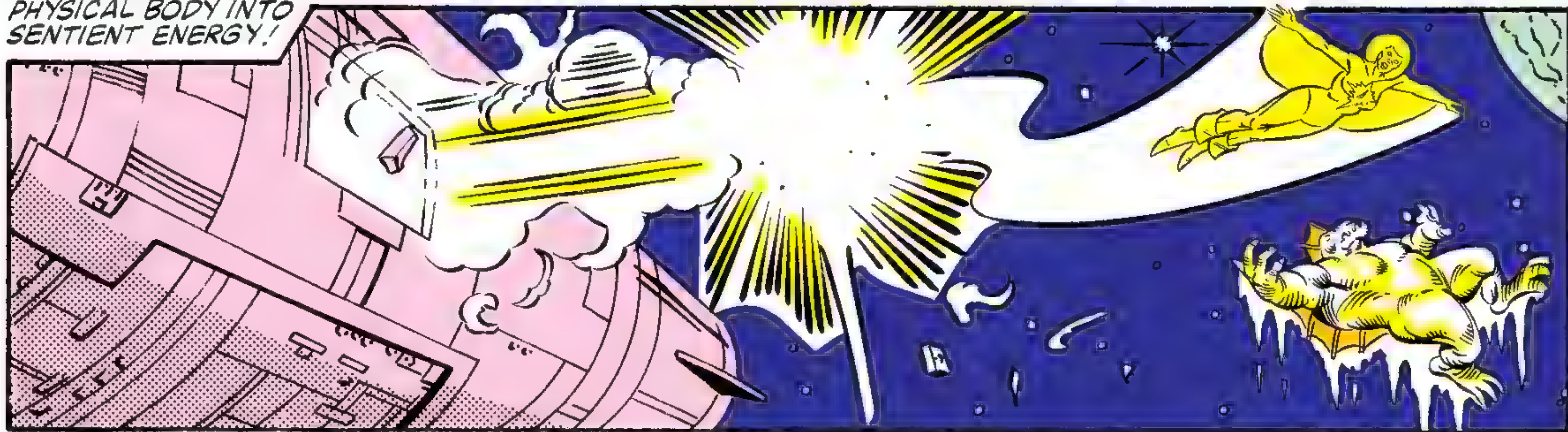
IN RESPONSE TO THE ROW OF SWITCHES JAMMED DOWN BY THE WRAITH, A SERIES OF EXPLOSIVE BOLTS ARE ACTIVATED, BLOWING THE FORWARD HATCH...



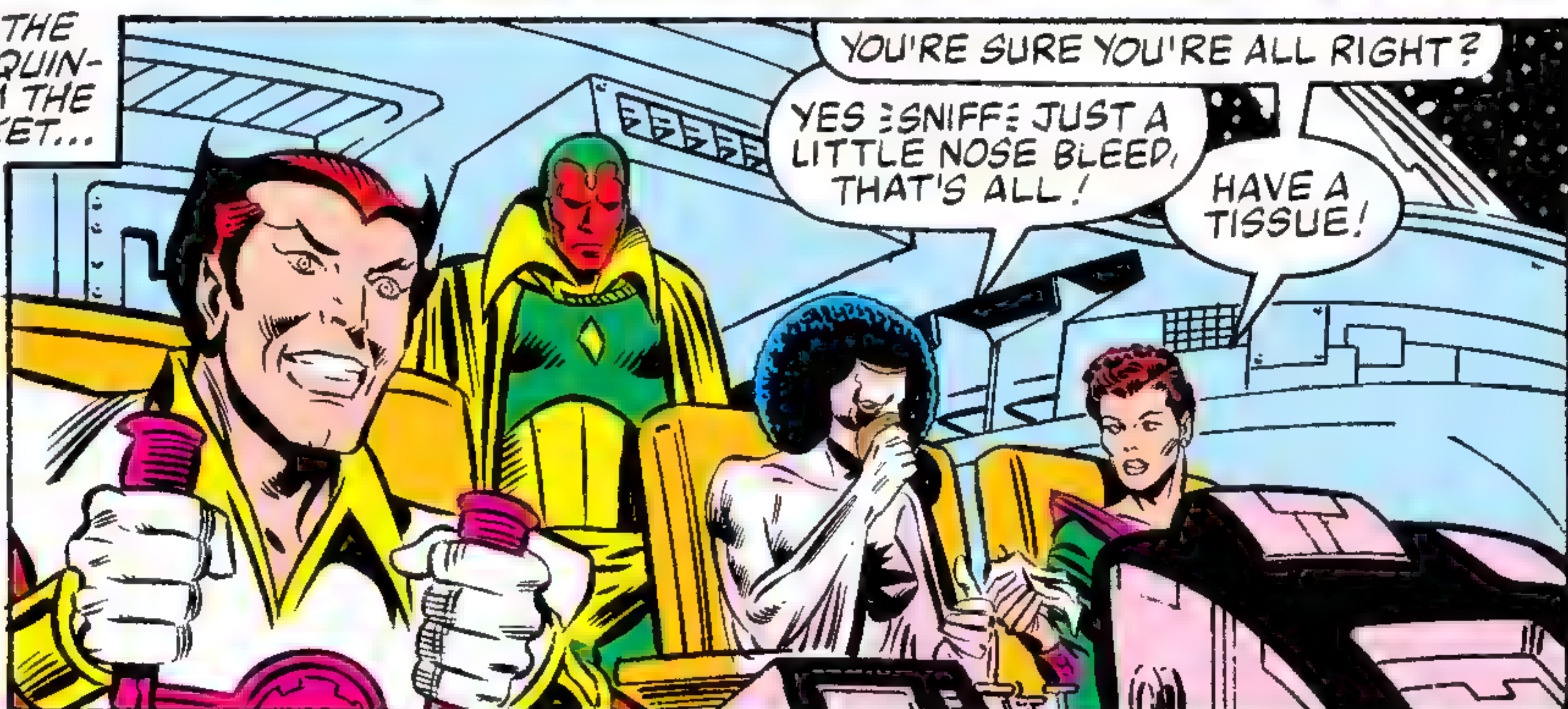
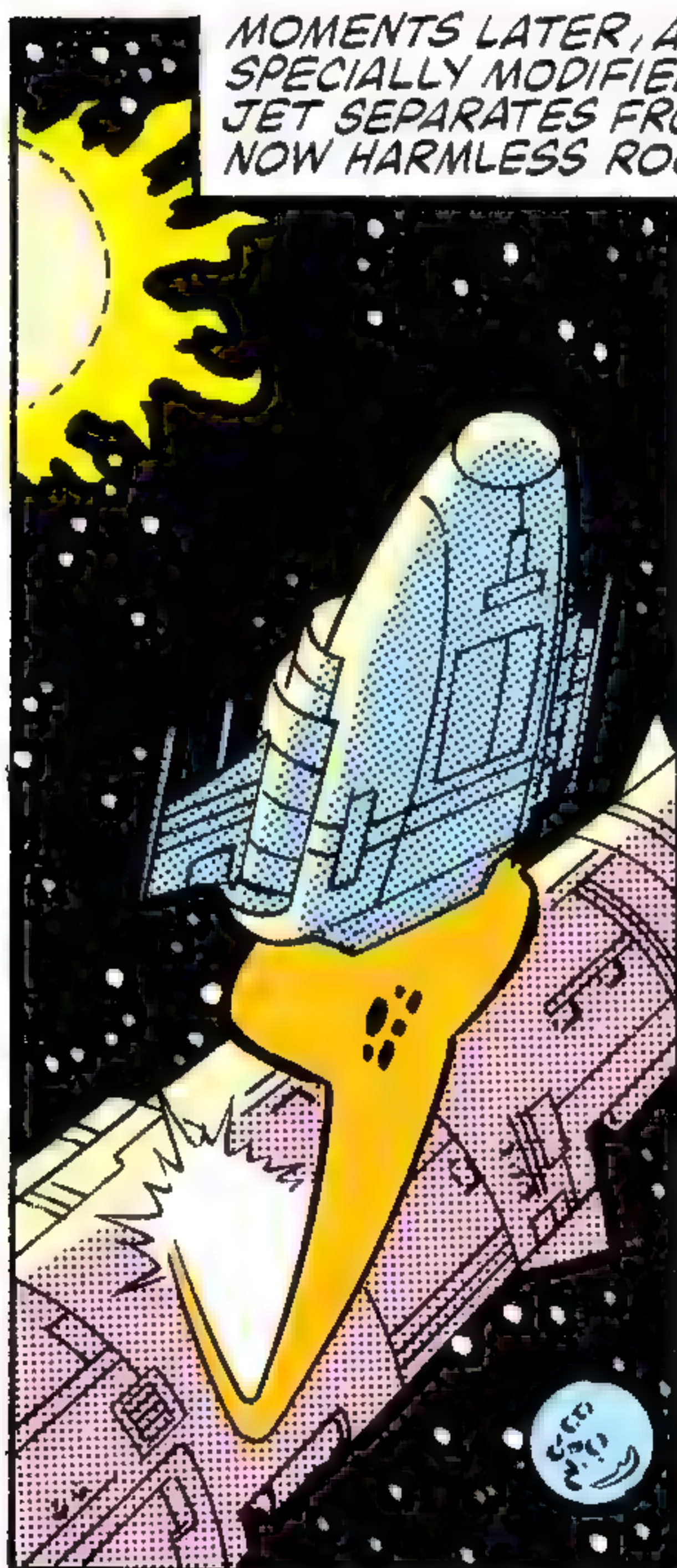
REALIZING THAT THE VISION HAS INCREASED HIS MASS ENOUGH TO RESIST THE RUSH OF ESCAPING AIR, CAPTAIN MARVEL PASSES HIM THE HELMET...



BUT BEFORE SHE CAN SUCCUMB TO THE HARSH VOID OF SPACE, SHE AGAIN MANAGES TO TRANSFORM HER PHYSICAL BODY INTO SENTIENT ENERGY!



MOMENTS LATER, AS THE SPECIALLY MODIFIED QUIN-JET SEPARATES FROM THE NOW HARMLESS ROCKET...



YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

YES ^{SNIFF} JUST A LITTLE NOSE BLEED, THAT'S ALL!

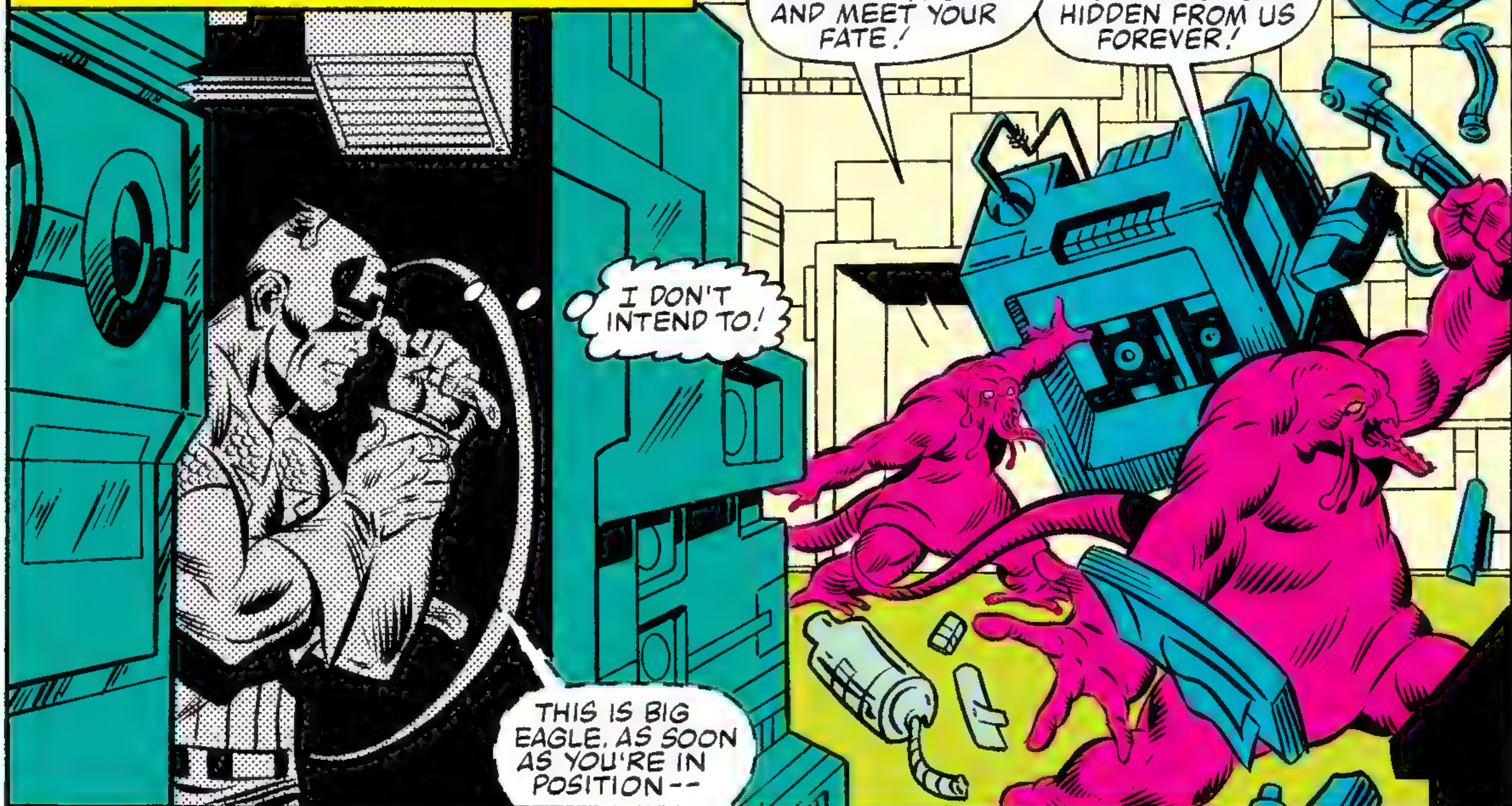
HAVE A TISSUE!

THANKS.

I'M SORRY THERE WASN'T A CHANCE TO TELL YOU SOONER... THAT I WAS ALIVE, I MEAN!

THAT'S OKAY! THE IMPORTANT THING IS...

"...THAT EVERYONE'S FINALLY SAFE AND SOUND!"

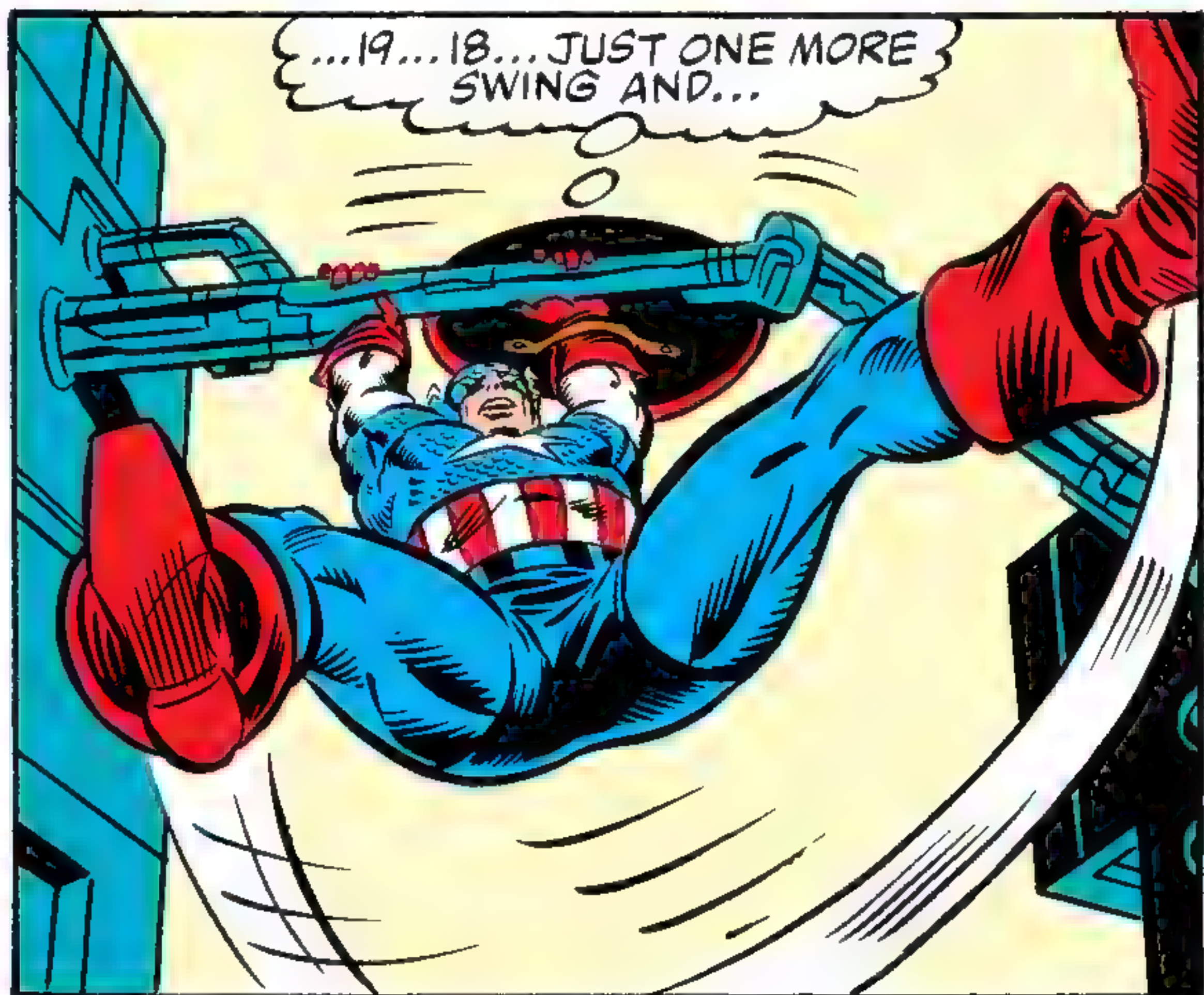
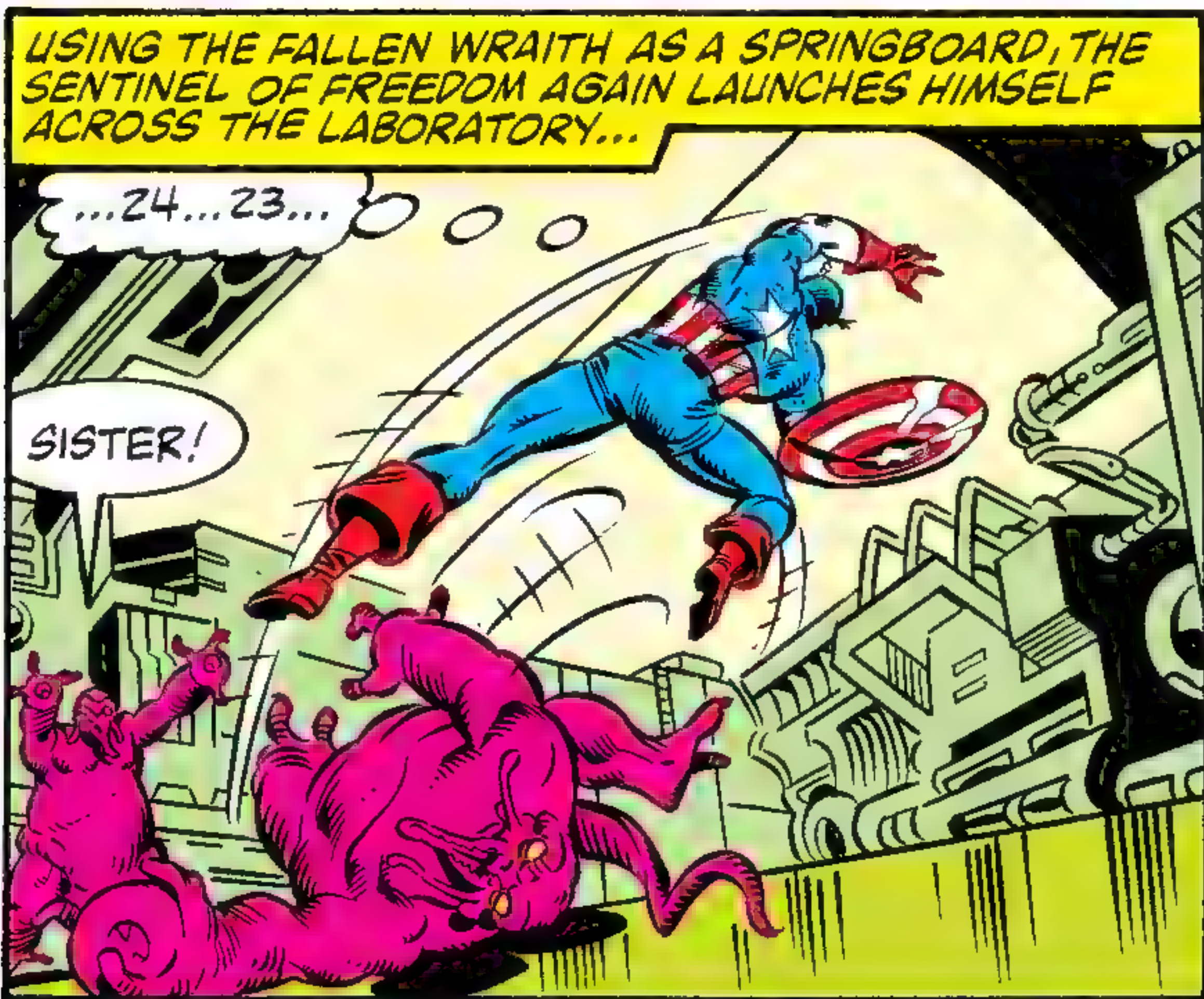
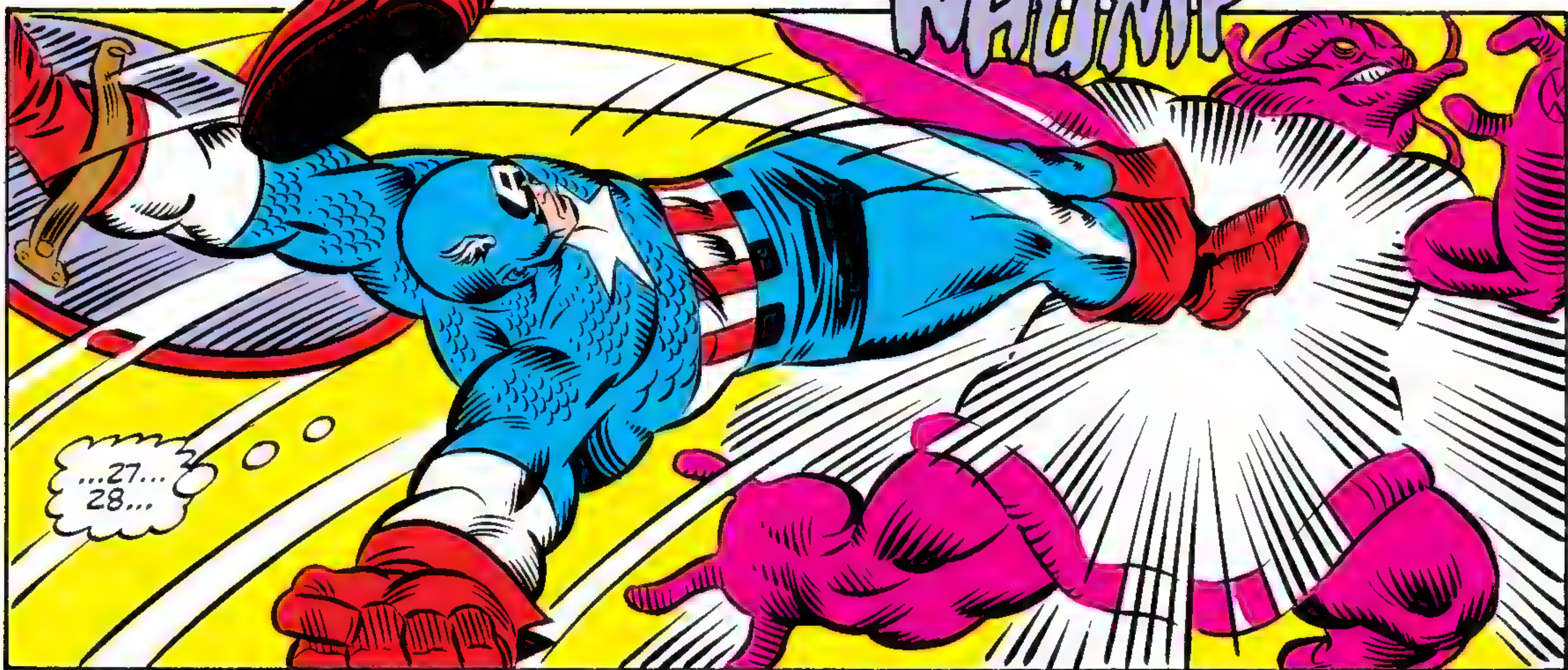
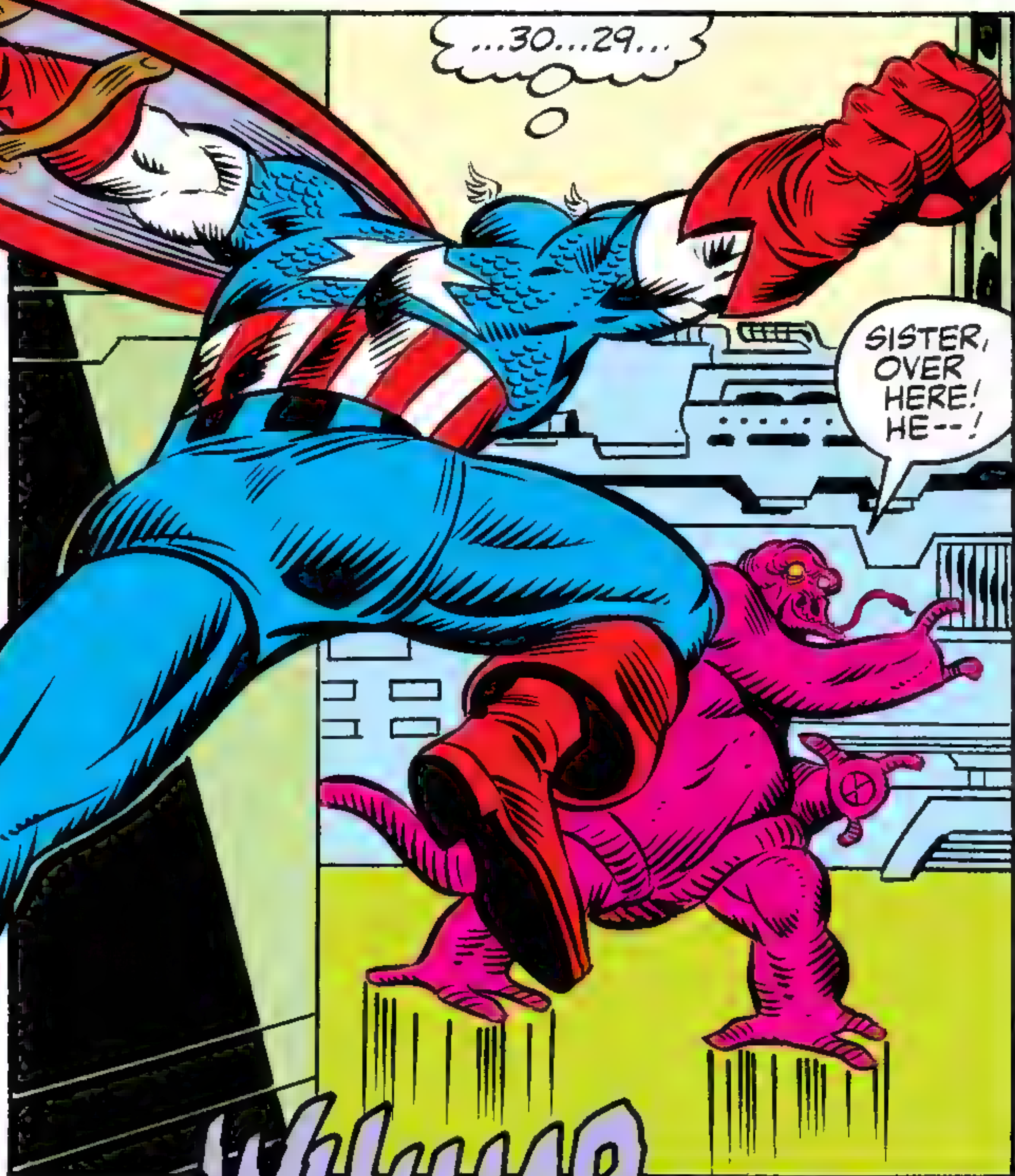
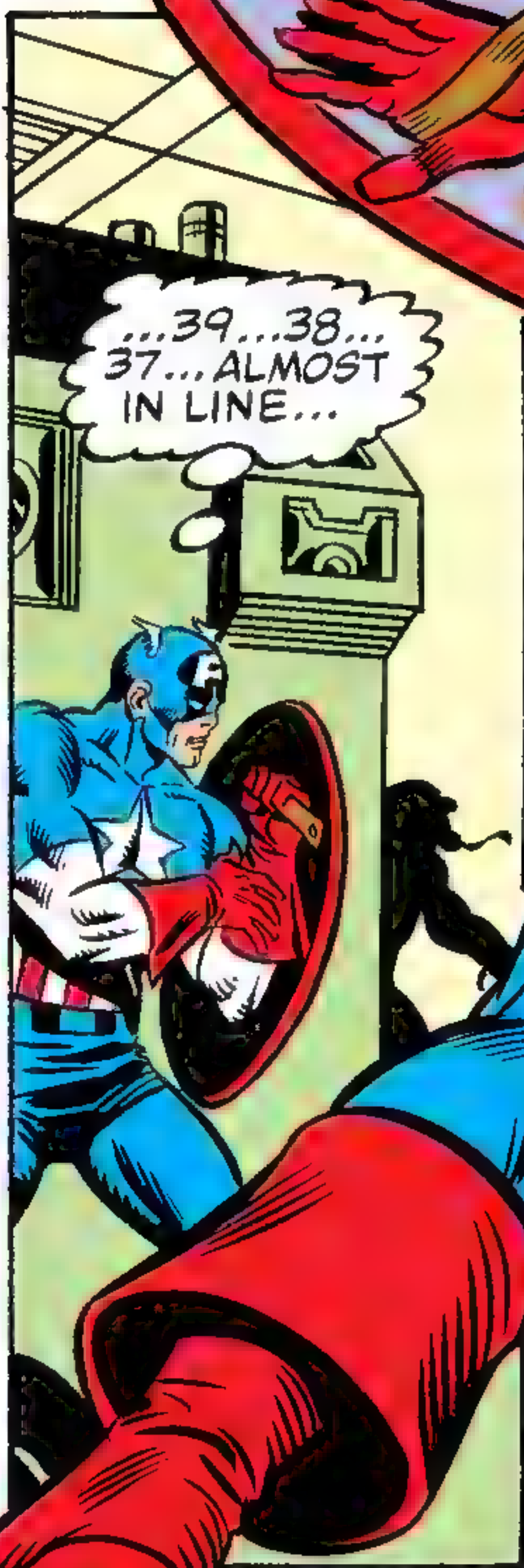
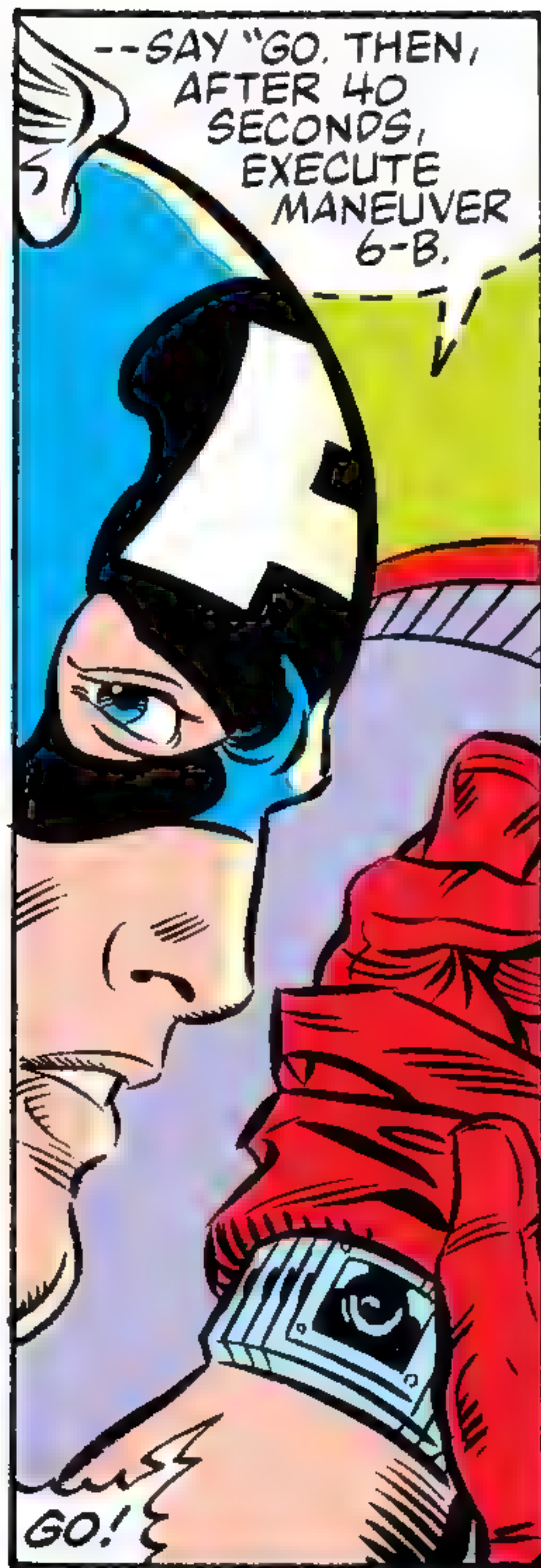


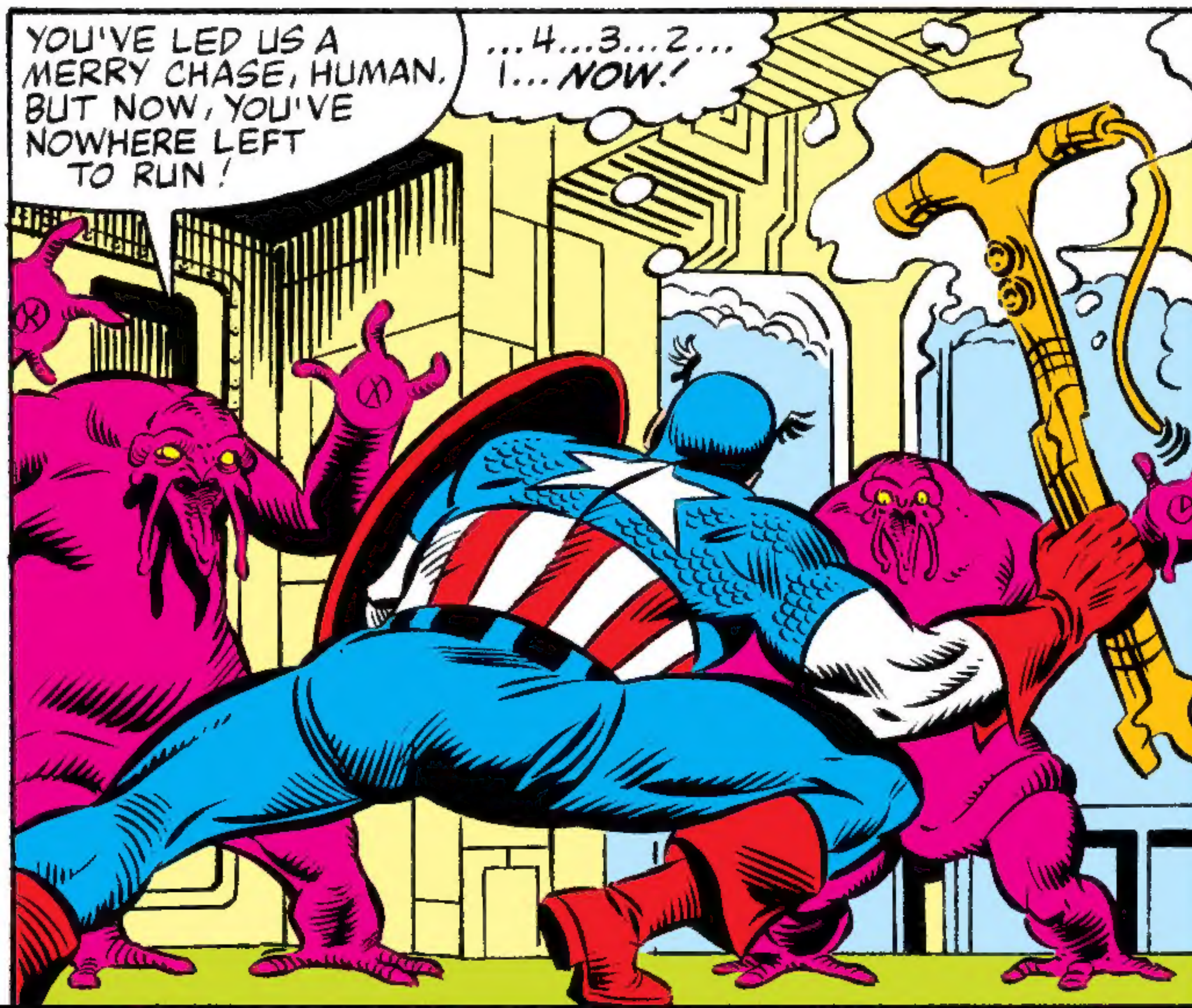
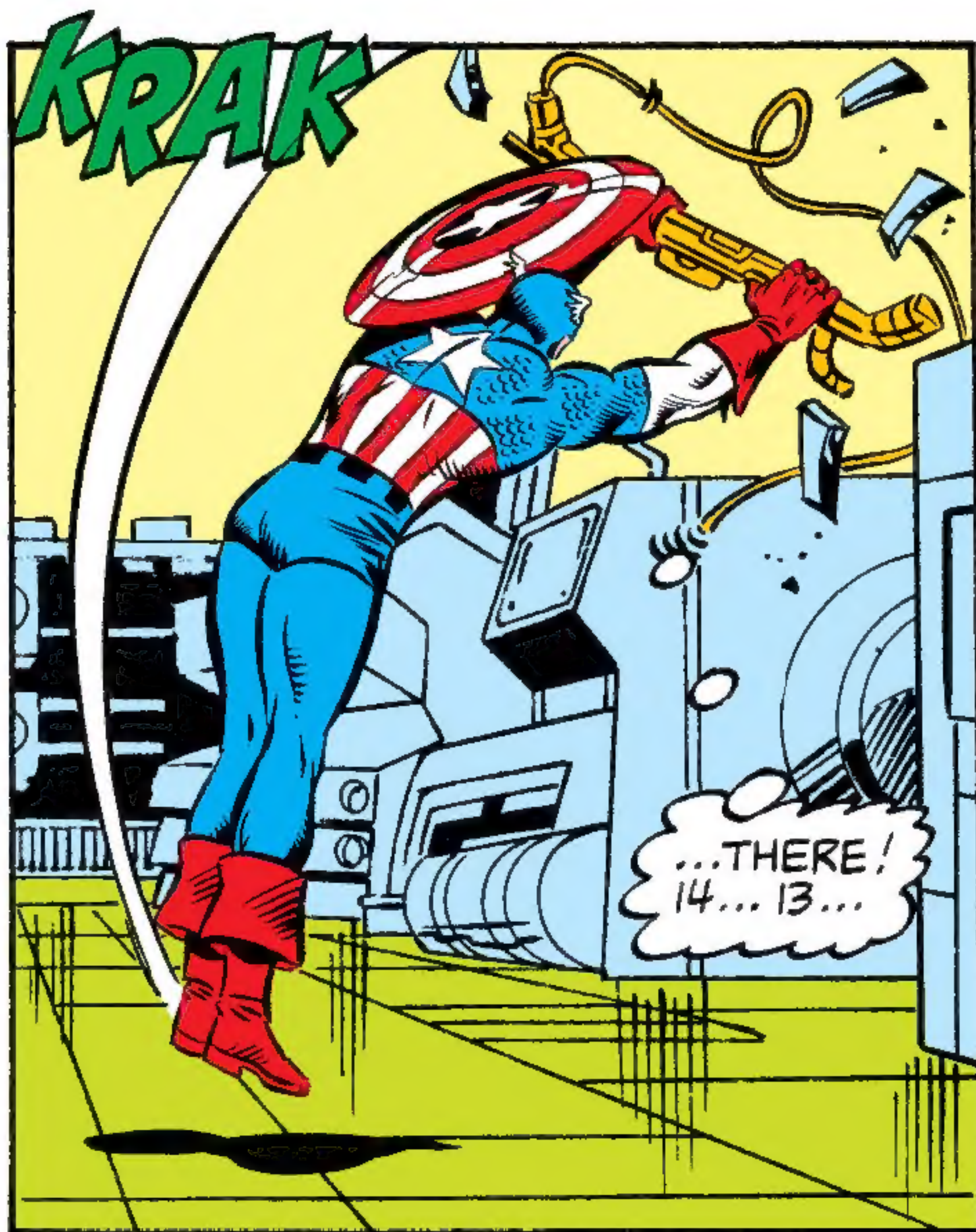
I DON'T INTEND TO!

COME OUT, HUMAN, AND MEET YOUR FATE!

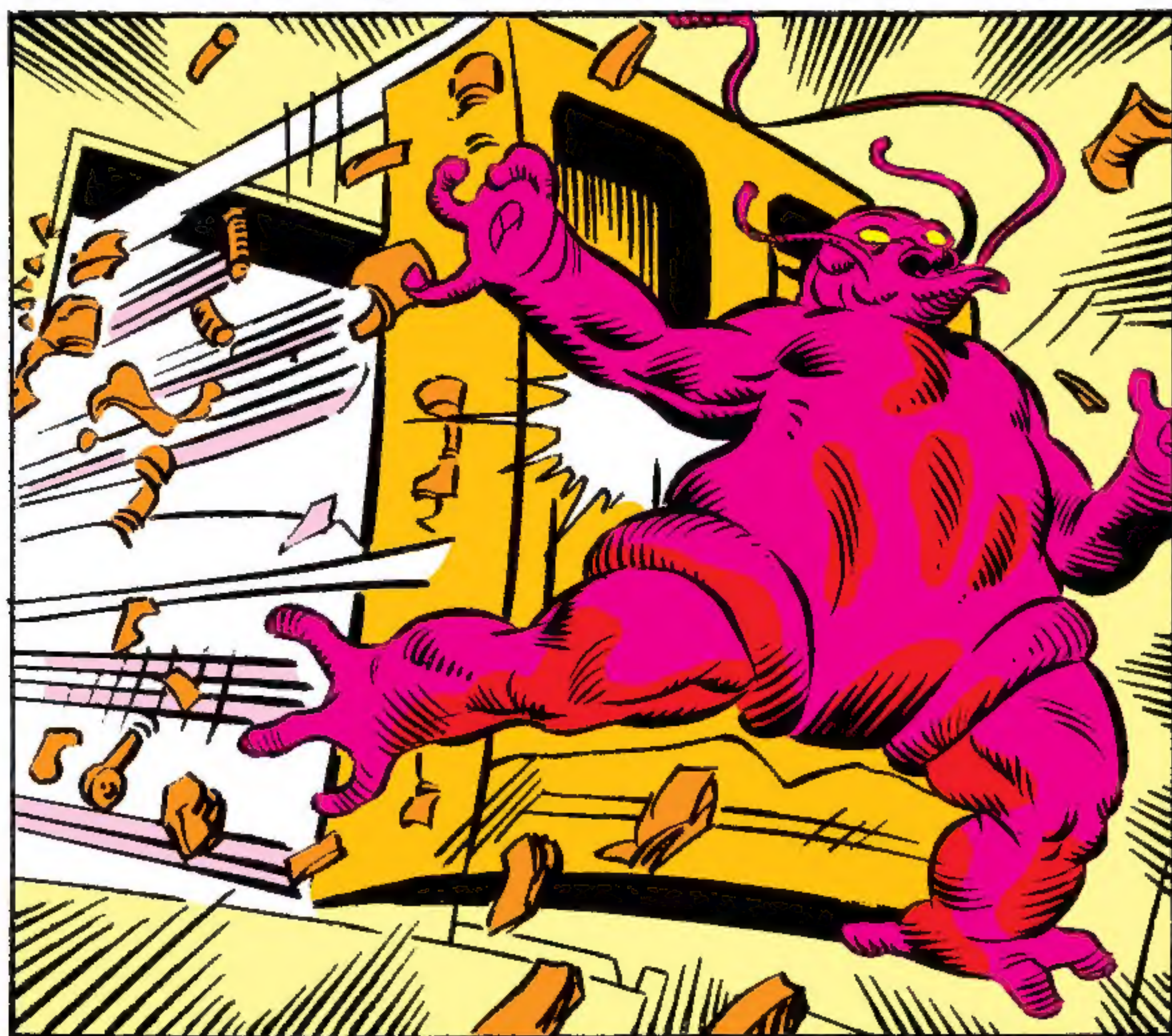
YOU CANNOT STAY HIDDEN FROM US FOREVER!

THIS IS BIG EAGLE. AS SOON AS YOU'RE IN POSITION --

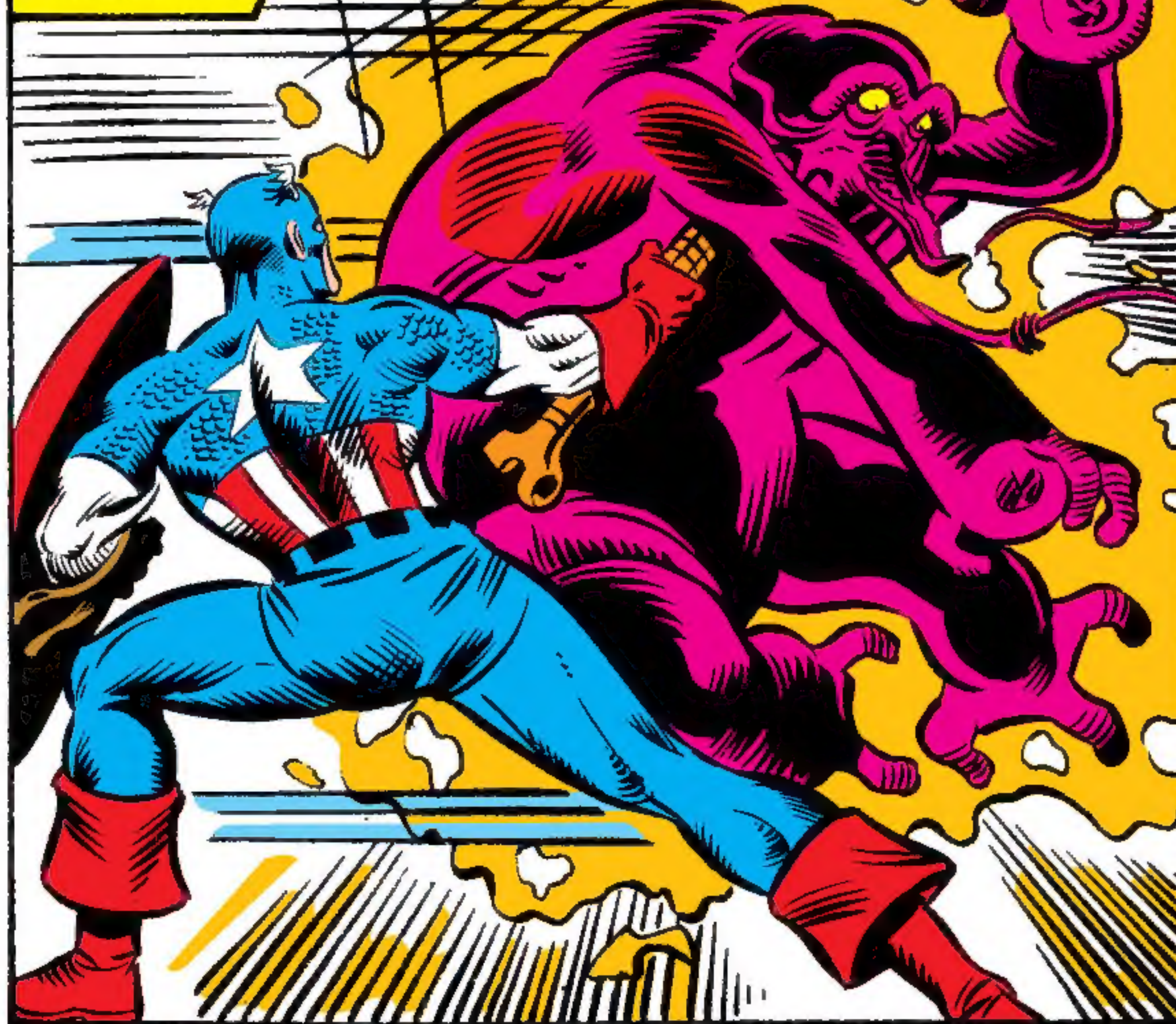


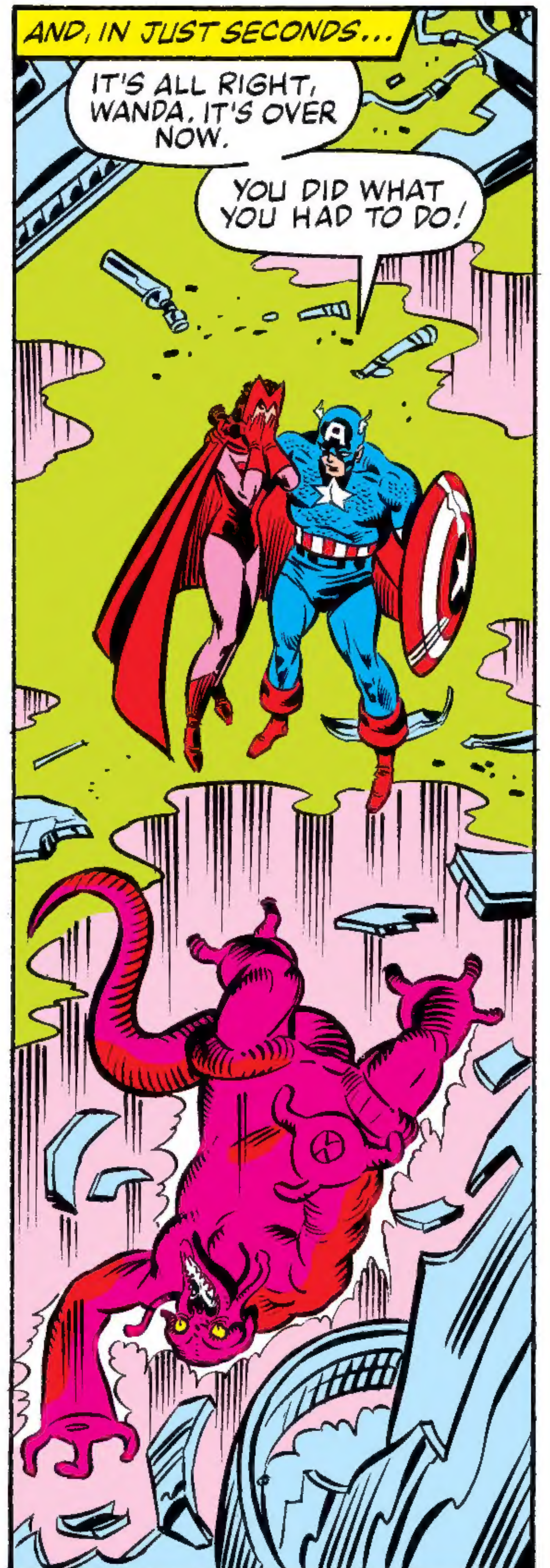
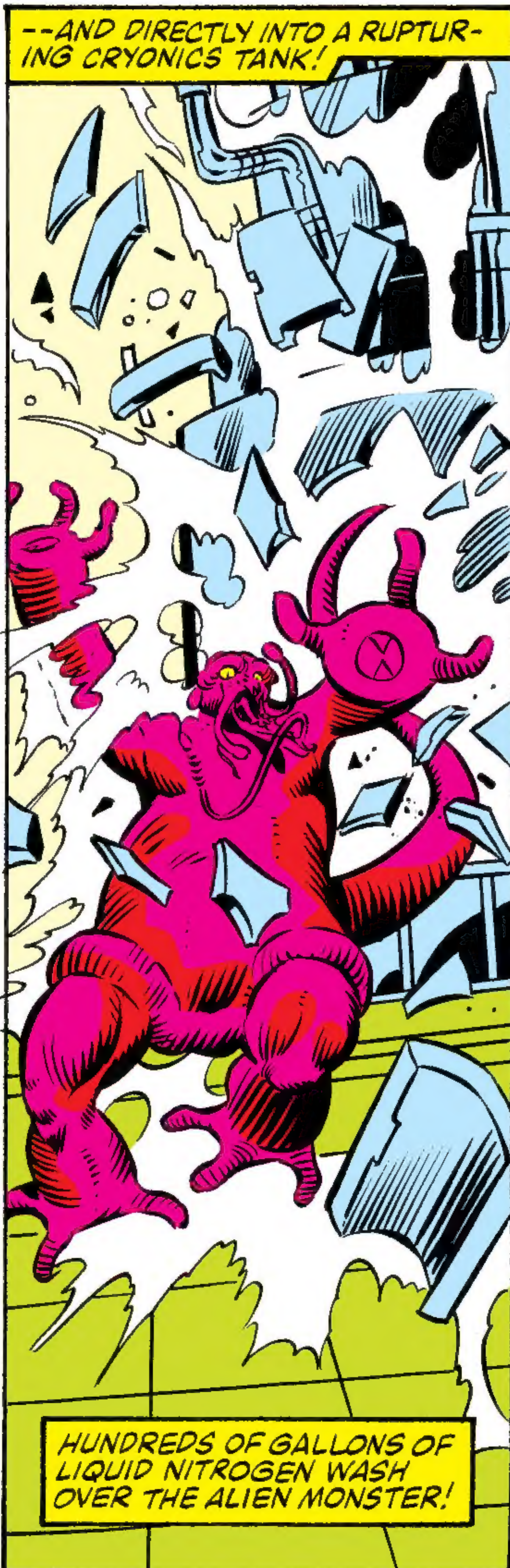
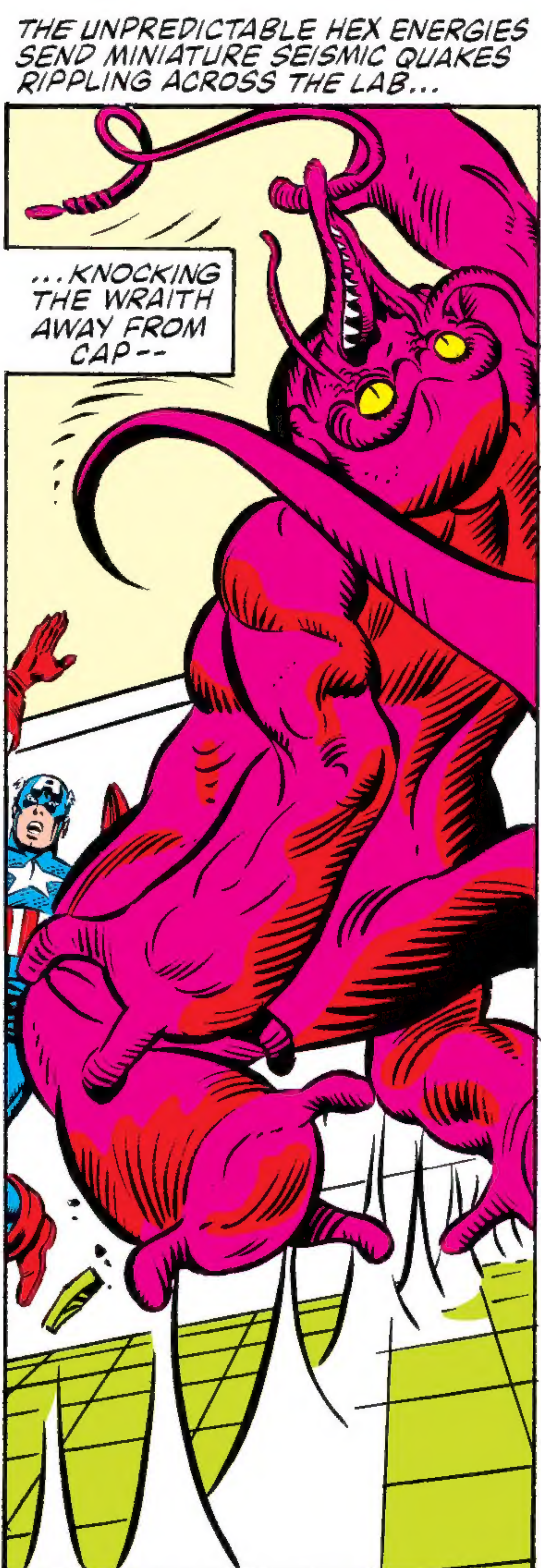
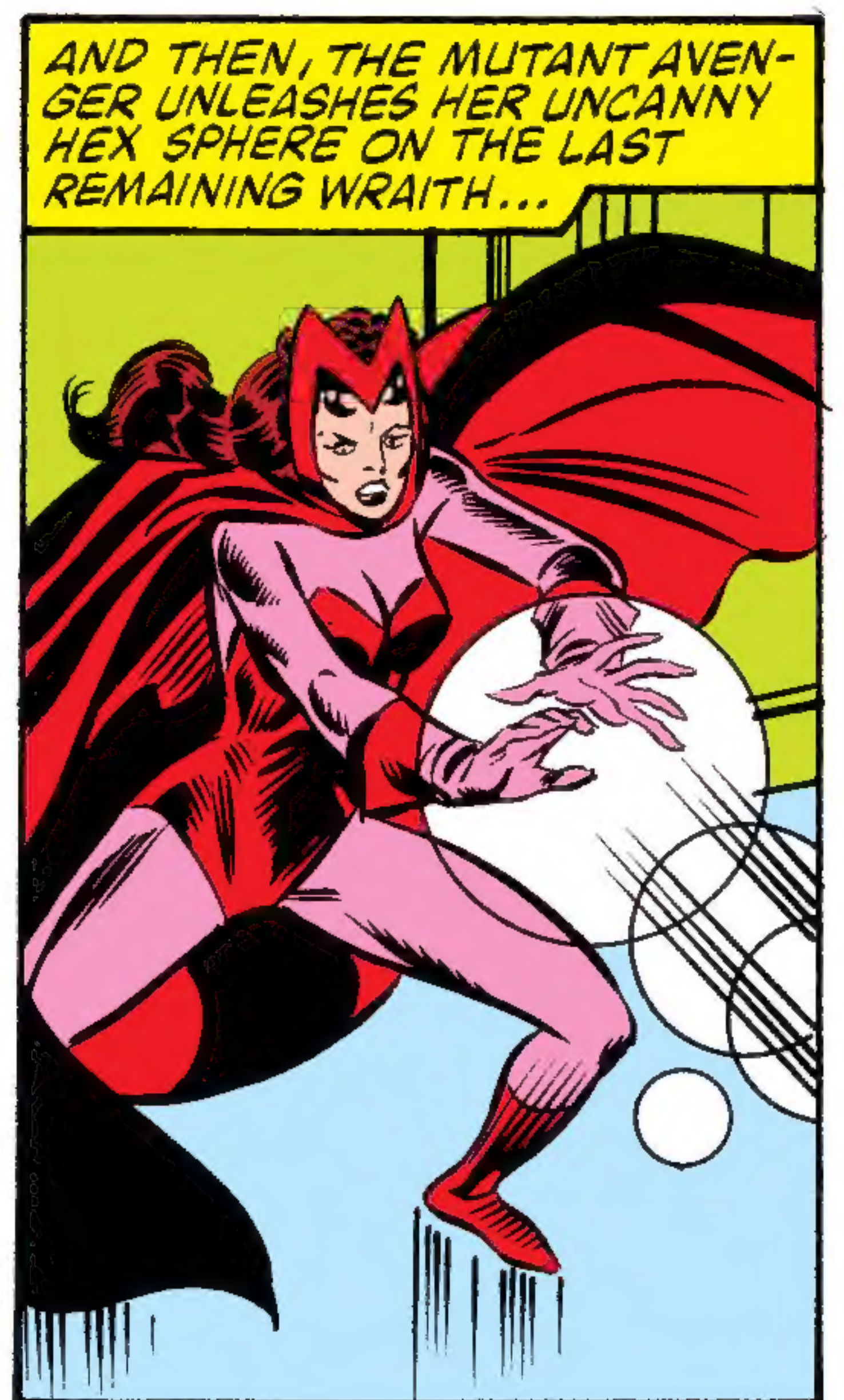
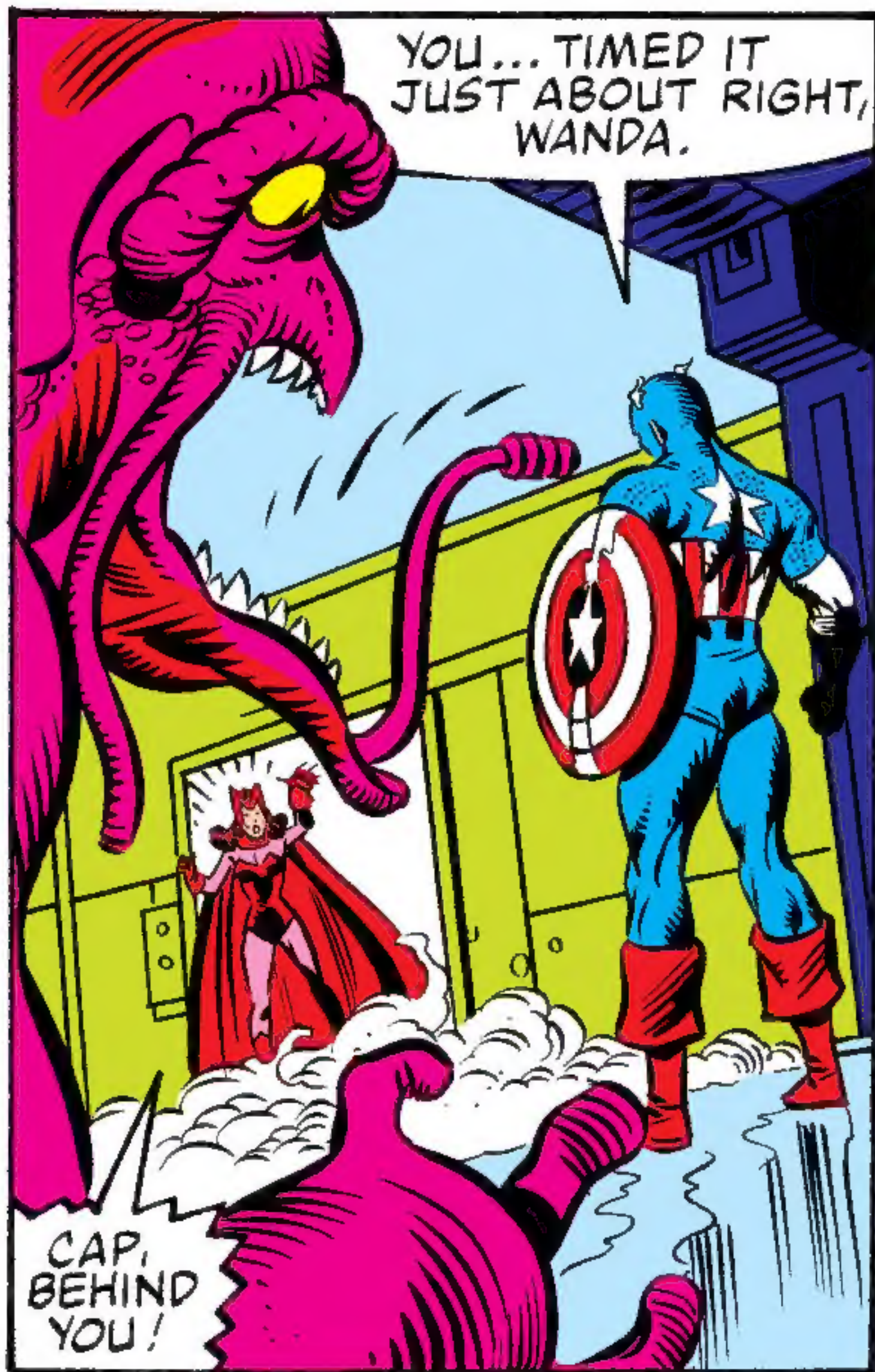


SUDDENLY, THE HEAVY SECURITY-SEALED DOOR IS BLOWN INWARD, CATCHING THE WRAITHS OFF GUARD--

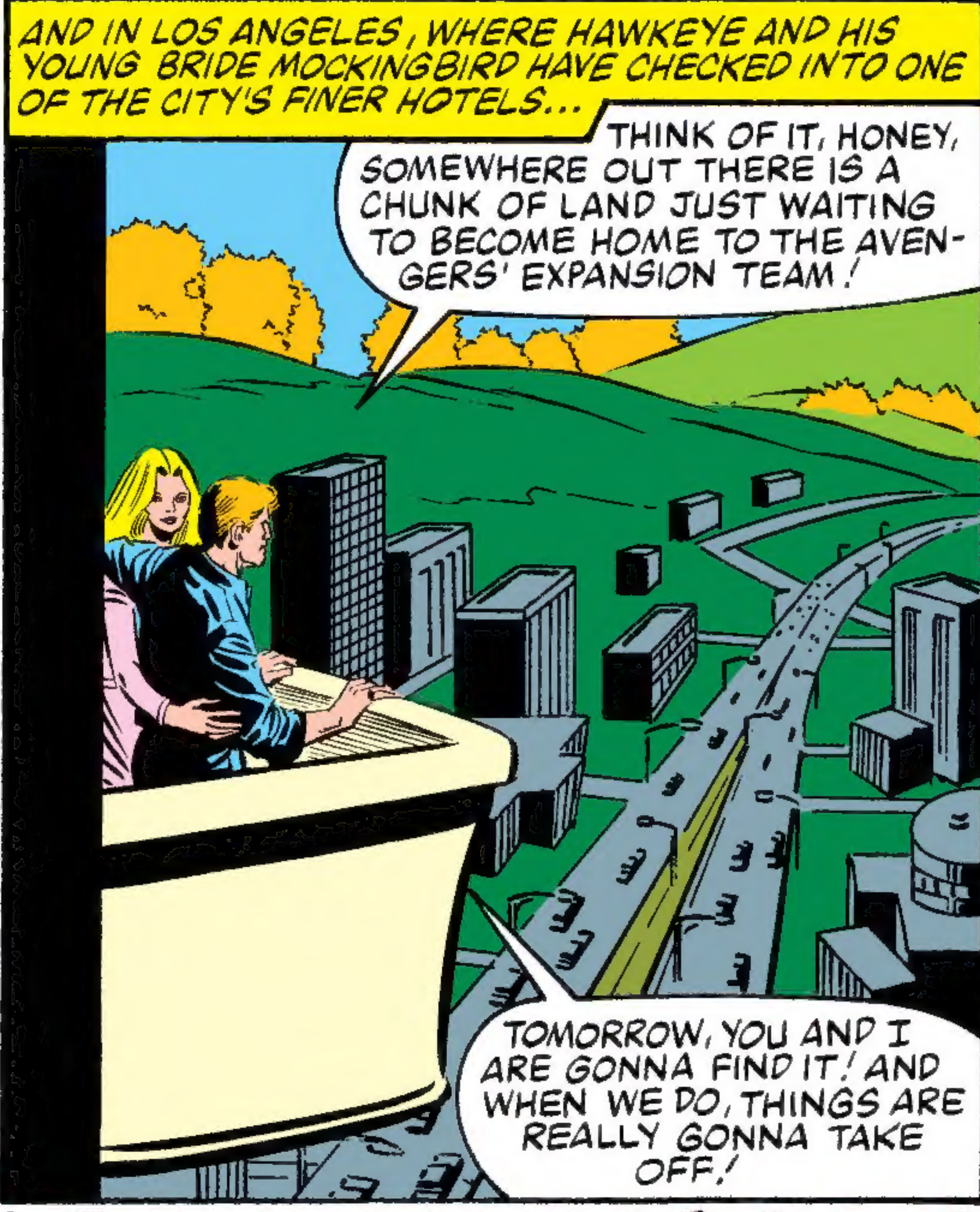
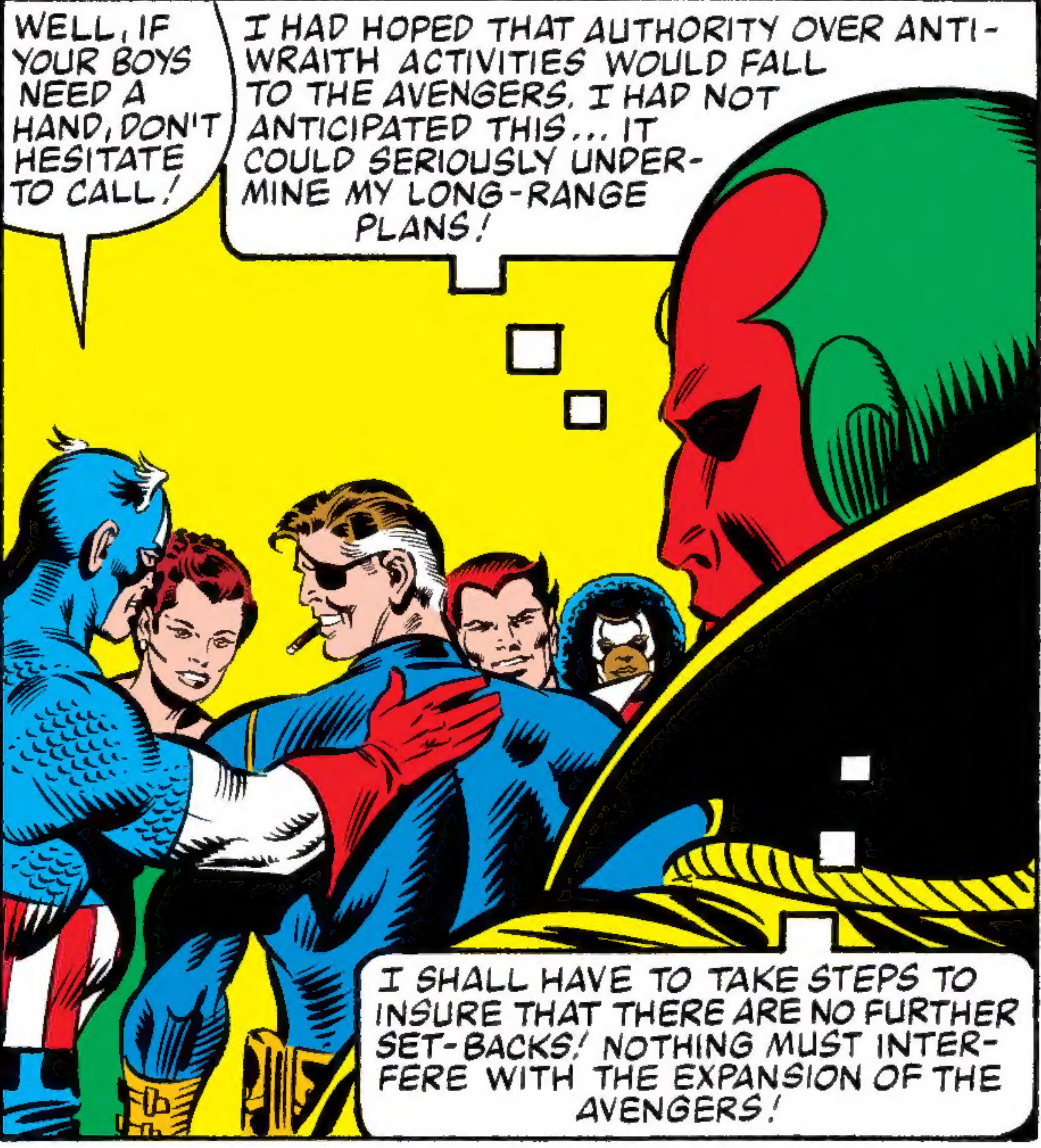
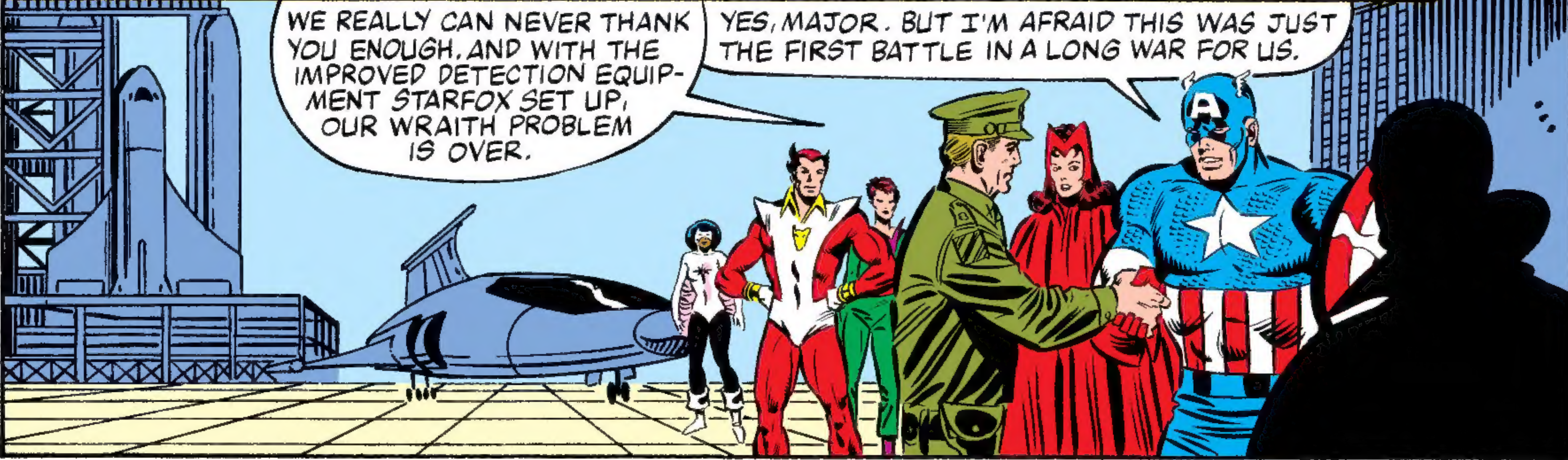


--AND DRIVING ONE DIRECTLY INTO THE HIGH VOLTAGE CABLE HELD BY CAPTAIN AMERICA!





HOURS LATER, AS THE AVENGERS BID THEIR FAREWELLS TO THE CAPE'S NEW HEAD OF MILITARY SECURITY...



NEXT ISSUE: THE VISION GOES TO WASHINGTON, HAWKEYE FINDS HIS DREAM HOUSE, THE WASP AND STARFOX CRASH A VERY STRANGE PARTY, AND CAPTAIN MARVEL CONFRONTS HER FAMILY! WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MISS...

"GATHERINGS!"

